

Mauritanian, Israeli ministers meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mauritania's Foreign Minister Mohammad Ould Lakhal met Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin here and discussed future ties between Mauritania and Israel, official sources quoted by agencies said Saturday. Mr. Lakhal met Mr. Beilin on Friday, said the sources, quoted by the AP and AFP. It was the second meeting Mr. Lakhal held with an Israeli official in two weeks. On June 12, the Mauritanian met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Madrid, Spain. AFP said Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti took part in the Amman talks. Mr. Lakhal, who began a visit to Amman on Thursday, held talks Saturday with several senior officials including Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before returning to Mauritania. (see page 3).

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King calls for dialogue to end suffering of Iraqi people

Enough is enough, says Monarch in Euronews interview and urges new approach to resolving crisis

'Any lasting solution over Jerusalem should provide for the rights of all three religions'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has called for an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people through a dialogue that would solve the difficult situation the country faces as a result of international sanctions imposed four years ago.

The King, who is currently visiting London, also said in an interview with Euronews Television that Jerusalem should be kept above all disputes of sovereignty and should be a symbol of peace.

If West Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, then East Jerusalem should be the capital of the Palestinians,

said the King.

On Iraq, the King said: "Iraq is very, very important country. It has a great history and great people. It has a great position within the context of this region and area. I really hope that the suffering of the Iraqi people come to an end before long."

"Iraq must be a vital part of this region," said the King, adding that the country would be eventually restored to its rightful place in the context of the Middle East peace process.

But, as far as the suffering of the people of Iraq is concerned, the King said, "Enough is enough. People

have to be given their chance to live as human beings and not to continue to suffer as they really have over so many years..."

In response to a question on the apparent deadlock over American insistence on not easing the sanctions on Iraq as long as the government of President

Saddam Hussein remains in power, the King said:

"What Iraq has been faced with is a very dangerous precedent and I do not think that people will accept" a condition that they remove their leadership as the price for ending the sanctions.

The alternative, the King said, is a "dialogue to get

out of this situation and deal with it. And I do not look very happily at the U.N. playing the role of a quarter...that means a (movement) now and then ...

"I think that enough is enough and that the people of Iraq will not continue to suffer."

The King said Jordan and Israel had come a long way signing their peace treaty in October and expressed hope that peace between people will be the end result of Middle East peace process.

"We have an international boundary with the State of Israel for the first time and

(Continued on page 7)



A Palestinian woman carrying a child walks past an Israeli soldier in the market of Hebron after a curfew imposed on the town was lifted Saturday (AFP photo)

Teenager shot dead in Nablus

NABLUS (Agencies) — Palestinians staged protests in three West Bank towns Saturday and Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager after he allegedly stabbed an Israeli soldier.

Hundreds of Jewish settlers, meanwhile, blocked a West Bank highway as part of their escalating protest against a planned pullout of Israeli troops from Palestinian towns.

The violence erupted as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators made a final attempt to meet Saturday's deadline for reaching agreement on a West Bank troop redeployment and Palestinian elections.

In protests that may have been fuelled by disappointment over another missed deadline, Palestinians hurled stones at Israeli troops in the West Bank towns of Nablus, Jenin and Hebron.

In Nablus, some 600 protesters marched through the streets and threw stones and empty bottles at about 100 soldiers.

Nablus has been tense since three Palestinians were killed by army gunfire in violent street clashes last Sunday.

In Jenin, dozens of Palestinians stoned soldiers during a march in support of Palestinian security detainees held by Israel. The army fired teargas and sun grenades into the crowd and imposed a curfew on the town.

Jenin is the first town to be handed over once redeployment begins.

Stone-throwing protests also erupted in Hebron after Israeli troops shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian, Ibrahim Khader Deis. The incident began when the youth stabbed and lightly hurt an Israeli soldier guarding the Jewish enclave of Tel Rameida in the heart of Hebron, according to Israeli reports. Other army guards opened fire, seriously wounding Deis who later died at a Hebron hospital, the reports said.

The settler protest took place along the highway linking Nablus and the Palestinian town of Kalkilya, Israel radio said.

Hundreds of settlers blocked the road Saturday morning, and traffic was backed up for several kilometres. Israeli (Continued on page 7)



GREEK WEDDING: His Majesty King Hussein with Queen Sofia of Spain and King Juan Carlos after the wedding of Prince Pavlos, heir to the Greek throne in exile, and Mary Chantall-Miller, daughter of American businessman Robert W. Miller, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in London on Saturday (AFP photo)

Israel-PLO deadline expires without word

EREZ (Agencies) — A July deadline set by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for an accord on wider Palestinian self-rule passed without announcement of an agreement.

Talks between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, which began two and-a-half hours before the midnight deadline, went on into early Sunday morning along the Israel-Gaza border.

Israeli and PLO officials had forecast no agreement would be signed on Saturday for an Israeli troop redeployment in the occupied West Bank and Palestinian elections, both of which are a year behind schedule.

A PLO official said Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat were likely instead to issue a dec-

laration of principles on redeployment, paving the way for more talks and possible signing of a pact in mid-July.

Israel has cited "security" concerns for the delay in agreeing the details of a pullout from Arab towns in the West Bank.

The PLO has accused Israel of backtracking from an interim self-rule deal signed in 1993 that set up autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May 1994.

"We are here to narrow gaps. We hope to reach agreement tonight," Mr. Peres told reporters as he waited to greet Mr. Arafat at an Israel-PLO liaison office near the Erez checkpoint.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres were expected to announce after their meeting that intensive negotiations would con-

tinue and that they hoped to sign an agreement later this month.

Negotiators have been tackling three issues — a troop pullout from Palestinian population centres, Palestinian elections and the transfer of powers from Israel's military government to the Palestinian autonomy council that is to be elected.

Mr. Peres said earlier Saturday the main problem was to reconcile between Palestinian demands for an extensive pullout and Israel's need to protect the 100,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank.

"Many issues have been concluded," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio. "The central problem on which Israel is not budging is the problem of security."

Palestinian Minister of International Cooperation Nabil Shaath concurred that the major disagreement was on the extent of withdrawal.

"There are still gaps between the concepts. We haven't looked at each other's maps yet because we haven't agreed on the concepts," he said after a meeting of Mr. Arafat's cabinet.

Israel Television said Israel had agreed to have troops pull out of six West Bank towns by the end of the year, or before Palestinian elections. Soldiers would remain in the tense town of Hebron.

However, the Palestinians demand that the Israelis pull back further and that Palestinian police also take control of Arab villages. Israel wants to remain in charge of security in the rural areas.

Cairo to host talks on displaced

CAIRO (AFP) — Israel and Arab states will meet here on Wednesday to discuss the return of Palestinians displaced from their homes in the 1967 Middle East war, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Badr Hamman said. An Arab-Israeli technical commission will meet "to examine the return of Palestinians on the basis of the declaration of principles" signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September 1993, Mr. Hamman said. The meeting will group Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian and Jordanian officials, he added.

Arafat says he was targeted for attack

GAZA CITY (AP) — Yasser Arafat told his cabinet ministers Saturday of a plot to assassinate him and two other Arab leaders in Ethiopia, according to a statement issued after the meeting. The statement carried no details, and Mr. Arafat aides were not immediately available for comment. On Monday, there was an attempt on life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa

Clinton satisfied with results of Israeli-Syrian meetings

CHICAGO (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday to express satisfaction with military talks between the countries hosted by U.S. officials.

Although the army chiefs of Israel and Syria ended three days of talks on Thursday without agreement on security measures to back up a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the White House said Mr. Clinton was satisfied with the outcome of the discussions.

The president called Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin "to tell them that he was very pleased and satisfied with the meeting with the chiefs of staff." White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn told reporters travelling with the president.

She told reporters the separate telephone conversations were brief but gave no other details.

Mr. Clinton met Thursday at the White House with Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmet Shehadi and his Israeli counterpart, General Amnon Shahak.

Israel on Friday described the Washington meetings as a small step in the right direction, but lamented the "inflexibility" of Syria.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said there had been no apparent progress in the negotiations, but that the talks would continue.

Speaking after talks with French President Jacques Chirac, Mr. Sharaa refused to comment on the details of the negotiations.

Mr. Sharaa said the Washington negotiations were "serious and conducted in depth. The American involvement was satisfactory," as far as we are concerned.

"There is no apparent result so far, but we cannot prejudge the talks before we assess the whole discussions that have taken place after the return to Damascus of Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat Shehadi," Mr. Sharaa said.

Despite the lack of progress, Mr. Sharaa appeared more optimistic on the peace process than in the past during his talks with Mr. Chirac, French sources said.

An official Syrian newspaper said on Saturday the

country would not permit Israeli troops to remain on the Golan Heights as part of a peace accord.

The daily Tishreen, in an apparent reference to Israel's demand for the setting up of an Israeli observation point in the Golan Heights, said Damascus would never accept any form of Israeli presence in the plateau.

"Occupation remains occupation whether it covers the whole of the Golan or a small part of it," Tishreen said.

"Syria made it clear in every occasion that it will never cede an atom of its soil and that its sovereignty on the Golan will never be a matter for bargaining or negotiations," it said.

Proposed Syrian-Israeli arrangements include the setting up of early warning systems, demilitarised zones and peacekeeping troops.

Diplomats said Israeli wanted to set up an Israeli observation point in the Golan to serve as an early warning post but Damascus rejected the demand and proposed air surveys instead.

Random Serb shells kill 4 in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs laid heavy shell fire on Sarajevo on Saturday, killing four people including one at the marketplace where one of the city's worst atrocities took place last year.

A shell exploded in the heart of the Bosnian capital's old town 10 metres from the Merkale market where a mortar killed 68 people in February 1994.

Eyewitnesses said the blast left one person dead and at least 10 wounded at the site which has become a symbol of Sarajevo's suffering under three years of siege.

The casualty toll was minimised this time by the absence of the usual crowd of

Saturday shoppers as Sarajevo's civilian population took shelter from mortars and shells fired by the besieging Serbs.

The barrage killed three other people and wounded dozens more elsewhere in the city which has suffered heavy casualties since a U.N. ban on heavy weapons collapsed a month ago.

"It seems (the shelling) is becoming more random," said U.N. spokesman Gary Coward. "This was blatant firing into the city."

In another sign of combatant's growing antagonism towards U.N. peacekeepers accused Serbs of conducting deliberate and coordinated attacks on four U.N. faci-

ties. Among them was the main U.N. communications centre and French peacekeeping headquarters, which were hit by two mortars on Thursday. U.N. observations posts and camps elsewhere in and around the city were targeted with rifle-grenades and small arms fire, U.N. officials said.

"It is more than likely to our view that these attacks were direct and deliberate targeting of U.N. facilities and personnel," said spokesman Coward. The intent "could have been to kill (or) it could have been to send a message."

Serb shelling of the besieged city has increased

since the Muslim-led government army launched an offensive June 15.

On Friday, Colonel Coward had implied that the mortar hits were inadvertent. He appealed to the government to stop using weapons located near the compound, charging the attacks were drawing Serb fire. The building serves both as the U.N. command and headquarters for the French contingent, the largest of the multinational force.

Less than two hours after Col. Coward spoke, another three shells landed close to the building, though the compound took no direct hits.

(Continued on page 3)

Sudan takes Egypt to U.N.

SUDAN ON Saturday complained to the U.N. Security Council about Egyptian attacks in a disputed border region, the official Sudanese news agency said. It also called on the world body to resolve the long running dispute over the Halaib region on the Red Sea.

The Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations filed the complaint with the council after Sudan said two of its policemen and a soldier were killed in skirmishes in the disputed Halaib region this week.

Sudan said in the complaint that on Tuesday the Egyptian army attacked Sudanese police in the region, killing one and injuring seven others, the news agency SUNA said.

The army "continued its escalations and aggression and attacked a coastal station north of Halaib (town), killing a Sudanese policeman and injuring another," it said.

(Continued on page 7)

Court hears three more witnesses in 'Arab Afghan' case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two witnesses told the State Security Court on Saturday that nearly \$4,500 sent to their joint banking account here by Saudi Mohammad Khalifa were mainly intended and spent for air passages for Islamic teachers to be sent abroad and had no links with subversion in Jordan.

The testimonies, supported by records of the account and authenticated by the manager of the bank who also appeared in court, appeared to back Mr. Khalifa's argument that he was only a philanthropist interested in spreading Islamic education and was not linked to extremism.

The witnesses appeared in the State Security Court in response to summons by the tribunal which is reviewing its verdicts issued in December after a four-month trial of the so-called Arab Afghan case — a reference to the purported links of some of the defendants with Arab volunteers who fought in the Afghan war.

In its Dec. 16 verdict, the court sentenced 11 to death — including Mr. Khalifa and two others in absentia — and handed down to seven others stiff jail terms after finding them guilty of carrying out and plotting bomb attacks at public places and subversive acts to destabilise Jordan.

The review of the verdicts was ordered in April by the Court of Cassation, which makes mandatory consideration of all State Security Court rulings. The Court of Cassation said the State Security Court should take into consideration the testimonies of three witnesses — one security officer and two civilians — and review the verdicts.

Mr. Khalifa is undergoing a retrial after he surrendered in May in line with a provision that qualifies anyone sentenced in absentia in Jordan for a retrial if he or she surrenders/is arrested by Jordanian authorities. The other two sentenced in absentia — a Jordanian and an Omani — remain fugitive and the verdicts against them remain valid.

In Saturday's 90-minute hearing, Omar Diab, who taught at a religious school

run by Mr. Khalifa in the Philippines for nearly 20 months in 1992 and 1993, testified that he used to transfer all his earnings — \$500 per month — to a joint account with his sister Khalidiyah at the Islamic Bank branch in Beqaa. All his living expenses in the Philippines were paid for by the school, he said.

The statement account showed a \$4,496 transfer in mid-1993. The witness explained that part of the transfer represented his own earnings and the rest was given by Mr. Khalifa to be spent on paying the air ticket for two religious teachers to go to Russia and for Abdullah Hashaika, the first defendant in the case, to travel to the Philippines to work at Mr. Khalifa's school.

(The defence says that Mr. Khalifa represented Islamic charities in Saudi Arabia and was organising Koranic and Arabic-language schools and teachers around the world).

Mr. Hashaika was paid \$1,000 by the witness's sister, who told the court that she did not know the man and had handed over the money at her doorstep when he called on her to collect it.

Both witnesses said no part of funds from the account was spent for any other purpose. Mr. Diab returned to Jordan when Mr. Hashaika replaced him in the Philippines.

The case against Mr. Khalifa stemmed from a statement that Mr. Hashaika made to interrogators that the Saudi had promised to finance a subversive group in Jordan during a meeting in the Philippines while he (Hashaika) taught at Mr. Khalifa's religious school.

Mr. Khalifa denies the charges and argues that all his dealings with Mr. Hashaika were related to the latter's work at the school.

The court set its next session for Wednesday, when it will hear a behaviour report on one of the other defendants who, according to the Court of Cassation, should have been treated as a minor since he was under 18 when the verdict was issued. The report will come from the prison where he is being held.

At Wednesday's session, the court is expected to conclude the hearings and set a date for its ruling.



'SECURITY IN BETHLEHEM: Veiled Palestinian girls walk past Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Saturday after Israeli tightened security there following the

expansion of a nearby settlement and the opening of a Jewish seminary there (AFP photo)

Behind Mubarak adulation, Egypt's problems remain

CAIRO (AP) — Turn on the television, any channel, there's Hosni Mubarak waving to crowds, being hugged by peasants, raising the Egyptian flag, explaining how he stayed cool even as assassins' bullets whizzed by.

The adulation of the Egyptian president reached its height Thursday — four days after the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — when he appeared before thousands of banner-waving workers celebrating his survival.

For many, the relief was sincere. But others saw the barrage of TV images as an attempt to bolster Mr. Mubarak while distracting from Egypt's woes.

Mr. Mubarak faces gripes about rising prices and up to 20 per cent unemployment, charges he has tried to stifle criticism of the government, and complaints that he wants to keep opposition candidates from running in this fall's parliamentary elections.

Human rights groups also charge the government's battle with Muslim militants — who are blamed for trying to kill the president Monday during his trip to Ethiopia — has led to mass arrests, torture and summary executions.

"If things continue along this road, one day there is

going to be an explosion," said Adel Hussein, the former editor of the Islamic bi-weekly newspaper Al Shaab.

Mr. Hussein was one of those journalists who wound up in jail after writing persistent articles critical of the government.

He was held for about three weeks, accused of possessing anti-government pamphlets — found on an airplane seat he occupied — and of revealing military secrets in a newspaper article.

No charges were ever brought. He denied he ever had the pamphlets and said the supposed secrets had already been written about in other newspapers.

Mr. Hussein, who suffers from ulcers and heart trouble, said he was kept in a dank, windowless cell. But his complaints pale before other criticism of Egypt's security services.

In a report issued in May, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights charged that police have shot 38 people while in custody and routinely jail members of suspects' families to force their relatives to surrender.

The organisation said 10,000 people were in jail as suspected Muslim militants, many without charges, and

that torture was used often during interrogations and in prisons.

The government denies such charges.

In a way, the 67-year-old Mubarak is a victim of his own efforts to open up Egyptian society. He came to power in 1981 after Muslim extremists gunned down his predecessor, Anwar Sadat, for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

When first in office, Mr. Mubarak's benign face and booming laugh gained him the nickname "the laughing cow," after the French cheese "La vache qui rit."

Later, when he succeeded in improving Egypt's telephone system, electricity and bridges, he was known as "Hosni Kabari," or "Hosni of the Bridges."

Lately, his militant opponents have called him "Mubarak the Pharaoh," implying he is like the absolute rulers of ancient times.

The nicknames show the full sweep of Mr. Mubarak's rule. The opposition press is livelier now than ever before. The human rights organisations criticising him were not allowed to exist before he came to power.

But the press law his government recently adopted, which it had to amend after



Hosni Mubarak

criticism, raised penalties for defaming state institutions to up to five years — from three months.

Mohammad Sid Ahmad, a leftist writer, said that even though the government was forced to back down, trying to put restrictions on the media undercuts democracy.

Mr. Mubarak is in his third six-year term. In the past, holding on to power too long has led Egyptian leaders to brutally oppress their political opponents.

Already, some Egyptians are noting the similarity between this week's celebrations of Mr. Mubarak and the elaborate ceremonies that Sadat staged to dramatise his own importance.

"I hope these rallies won't go to his head," said sociologist Sameddin Ibrahim, a professor at the American University in Cairo, "that he will continue to be modest and show humility."

Arafat — a would-be statesman seeks state

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A year after arriving in Gaza to a hero's welcome Yasser Arafat has juggled a multitude of problems and managed to keep the fragile peace process alive but is far from creating a Palestinian state.

Ecstatic scenes greeted Mr. Arafat, when dressed in his familiar military fatigues and scarf or keffiyeh, he stepped onto Palestinian soil on July 1, 1994, ending a 27 year exile.

He carried with him the hopes and dreams of two million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, desperate to end decades of Israeli occupation.

But the honeymoon period was soon over. Since then the long-time revolutionary has had to confront the hardline Islamic groups opposed to the peace process with Israel, regular closures of borders of the Palestinian territories which have thrown thousands out of work and the slow dribble of international aid.

In November increasing disillusion erupted into the first serious clashes between Palestinian policemen and militants which left 13 dead in Gaza City.

But 12 months on Mr. Arafat is on the verge of a deal with Israel on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule, including a withdrawal of Israeli troops on the West Bank and elections.

New buildings are springing up in Gaza and he has succeeded in clamping down on the extremists.

The crowning achievement was in December, when the once reviled "terrorist," stood with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Now a regular guest in many Western capitals, Mr. Arafat has begun to adopt the mantle of a statesman more quickly than many thought.

"Things are now definitely going in the right direction," Terje Larsen, the U.N. representative to the territories told AFP.

"I would say that Mr. Arafat has performed more than well," he said, adding that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader had "learned fast."

"There is also a cultural revolution which is the most radical change. The skirts are going up and the veils are

going back. You can even catch glimpses of couples walking hand in hand. This has a tremendous political effect. This signifies fundamentalism being pushed back."

"There is a restoration of hope... growing support for the Palestinian experiment," he added.

A poll in mid-June found three-quarters of Palestinians support the continuing peace process with Israel.

But human rights groups have denounced Mr. Arafat for setting up a special military court which has dispensed quick justice — with no appeal — to about 10 militants.

Hardliners have accused him of selling out the Palestinian cause for nothing in return.

"The goals of independence and sovereignty that the PLO leader set have not been achieved," said Imad Fakhri, editor-in-chief of Al-Wakeel, the mouthpiece of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

"He has failed to reach an understanding with the opposition and the spectre of a civil war stalks Gaza. The prisoners have not been freed, the settlements have not been dismantled and, despite everything Mr. Arafat continues the political process with Israel," he added.

Others have criticised his autocratic leadership and corruption within his administration.

"He's the only one who can take decisions. He has to sign everything — even the order for telephone lines, because they discovered corruption," said his Israeli biographer Danny Rubinstein.

"Arafat is adopting the Arabic system of rule. But he's not cruel and he's not tyrannical. He's even more democratic than most Arab regimes."

"Above all, he's arrived, which is already quite an achievement. He's managed to stay alive and he's stayed the leader."

But he added that the PLO leader, who at 64 is expecting soon to be a father for the first time, had maybe had his day.

"Like Moses he brought people to the promised land, but he will never create the state. The Palestinians need someone who is a creator, not a revolutionary."

Moroccan women seek laws against violence

CASABLANCA (R) — A Moroccan women's lobby demanded new laws to protect women from domestic violence and harassment and the repeal of statutes that are discriminatory.

"There should be a law defining violence which can be physical, sexual, as well as mental and ways of proving such violence," lawyer Saadia Wadiah told a women's conference in Casablanca on Friday.

The conference gave no figures for domestic violence but lawyers say the practice is widespread in Morocco's patriarchal society where 75 per cent of women are illiterate.

One of the speakers recalled a recent case where a wife was beaten to death by her husband. Sentencing is usually lenient in cases of domestic violence.

The one-day conference on the theme of "Violence against Women" was organised by the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDF). It dealt with sexual harass-

ment, discrimination and domestic violence and called for the repeal of all laws which discriminate against women in the home and in the workplace.

"Civic laws are particularly unjust to women," said AMDF President Najat Razi. She noted that a woman could not marry without permission from a male relative.

"Women are still seen as children needing guidance," she said.

Divorce and child custody laws also discriminated against women, the conference heard.

"Only men can take the decision to divorce without giving their wives prior warning. This law should be abolished as well as the law allowing polygamy which is unacceptable in a society where women work and are financially independent," Ms. Wadiah said.

Speakers said new laws should take into consideration that violence could also take the form of sexual harassment.

Turkish general attacks democratic reforms as damaging war on PKK

ANKARA (R) — One of Turkey's top generals has condemned government efforts to further democracy as called for by the West, saying it was undermining the army's fight with Kurdish separatist rebels, Turkish newspapers said on Saturday.

"We'll finish terrorism soon but we're being held back by democracy and human rights," the Yeni Yuzul daily quoted armed forces Deputy Chief General Ahmet Corekci as telling a briefing of Turkish journalists at the general staff headquarters.

Several dailies said Gen. Corekci criticised an attempt by the coalition government of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to scrap the anti-terrorism law's Article 8, which restricts freedom of expression.

The article has been used to jail scores of writers on grounds of their perceived support for Kur-

dish separatism and is a focus of Western criticism of Turkey's human rights records.

"We want Article 8 to stay as it is while the fight against terrorism is going on. Changing it is not appropriate," Gen. Corekci was quoted as telling the briefing, to which foreign journalists were not invited.

Military spokesman were not available for comment later.

Western human rights groups accuse the Turkish military of burning villages in its fight against Kurdish rebels, torture and other violations.

The European Parliament has conditioned Turkey's entry into a customs union with the European Union on Ankara carrying out democratic reforms.

Despite his criticism, Gen. Corekci said the armed forces would not go against any decision by parliament to scrap or

change Article 8 under European pressure.

"We couldn't say anything if parliament decided to change it in Turkey's higher interests for reasons like the customs union," he told the journalists.

The army and government have repeatedly said Turkey is on the point of defeating the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrilla group, which fights for Kurdish autonomy or independence in the southeast.

Western analysts say more than 17,000 people have been killed in the guerrillas' 11-year-old campaign but Ms. Ciller's office last week put the death toll at nearly 20,000.

President Suleyman Demirel, ousted as prime minister by the army in 1970 and 1980, played down Gen. Corekci's comments. Anatolian news agency said.

"Don't read too much into this," he told the agency in Bucharest where he

was attending a Black Sea leaders summit.

"He's not saying the army is treading on human rights. He's saying it has problems because it is not treading on human rights," Mr. Demirel said.

The armed forces ruled Turkey for three years after the 1980 takeover, quelling political violence before handing power back to civilians.

Gen. Corekci said Kurdish demands for the lifting of bans on Kurdish language education in schools and Kurdish broadcasting were the first steps to separatism.

"It's a salami tactic, the more you cut the more they want," he said. "They have political and cultural demands. Writing, travelling, drawing, speaking, broadcasting, special education. We can't consent to that," he was quoted as saying.

Successive governments have rejected any political solution to the Kurdish problem and largely given the military a free hand to fight the PKK.

Amendments are setback

The quest to liberalise the Turkish constitution inherited from the last military regime encountered difficulties Friday during a debate in parliament. None of the proposed amendments during the first reading attained the necessary two-thirds majority required for an automatic modification of the country's basic law. The failure was a blow to Prime Minister Ciller, who had been anticipating success.

A second reading will be held beginning Tuesday or Wednesday.

A reform needs 300 votes to be passed automatically. If it gets between 270 and 300 a referendum is necessary. The push for reform en-

visages the amendment of around 20 articles of a constitution published in 1982 under the military regime from the 1980 coup d'etat.

Reformers want trade union rights extended to civil servants and to permit trade unions and associations to have their own constitutions. They also want to lower the age of the right to vote. However, the reforms do not include any measure about the freedom of expression, desired by advocates of democracy and also by Western countries pushing for liberalisation in Turkey.

Legislators accepted only seven amendments in the first reading rejecting another 15 and passing two for the bill stage.

But even the seven approved articles did not receive the 300 votes that would mean them avoiding a referendum, plunging the debate into difficulties from the outset.

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:00	The Flintstones
14:30	Mighty Jungle
15:00	Pugsall Summer
15:30	Movie Wage
16:00	The House of Elcott
16:30	La Marche du Sicile
17:00	Tennis Wimbledon 1995
18:00	News in French
18:15	Ushahid
18:30	News Headlines
19:30	Documentary
20:00	Nurses
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Starthair
22:25	Seekers
23:30	The Hidden Room
23:59	Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

05:54	Fajr
12:39	(Sunrise) Duha
16:20	Asr
19:50	Maghrib
21:25	Isha

CHURCHES

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Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 82785
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Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637420

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The Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654032
Church of Nazareth Tel: 675091
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise with winds northwesterly moderate to active and dusty particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. In Agaba, hot weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly active and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	20/35
Agaba	26/41
Deirath	17/37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 23:39

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 35, Agaba 42, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	663412
Dr. Fakhry Balbasi	698440
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour	898140
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul	620115
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tawini	661012
Firas pharmacy	773336
Fordows pharmacy	626772
Al Asena pharmacy	644945
Naroukh pharmacy	626772
Al Salam pharmacy	630720
Yaoudi pharmacy	637660
Shmoussi pharmacy	626772
Naroukh pharmacy	626772
Najm pharmacy	847632

REBID:

Dr. Muhammad Al Hila	270772
Alqadi pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad	985551
Khalid pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
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Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blind Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896301

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 608041

Press Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 010230

REPAIRS:

Andah Telephone Repairs	621101
Jordan Telephones	771111
Radin Jordan	774111
Water Authority	661101
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

Electric Power:

Emergency	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	636381
Hossein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalid Maternity, J. Anan	6428116
Alkhal Maternity, J. Anan	6428116

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30	Rangoon, Muscat (RJ)
08:45	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Lima (RJ)
10:45	Beirut (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
13:45	Amsterdam, Ankara (RJ)
21:00	Cairo (RJ)
01:20	Jeddah (RJ)
02:30	Damascus (RJ)
21:45	Agaba (RJ)
22:15	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
23:15	Ankara (RJ)
23:24	Samsa (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:30	Rome (A2)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
13:30	Samsa (ME)
14:30	Samsa (ME)
16:05	Moscow (SU)
21:25	Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:15	Madrid (add) (RJ)
06:30	Agaba (RJ)
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
11:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
11:55	Vienna (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
13:45	Amsterdam, Ankara (RJ)
21:00	Cairo (RJ)
01:20	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
22:15	Agaba (RJ)
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
23:15	Ankara (RJ)
23:24	Samsa (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:30	Rome (A2)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
13:30	Samsa (ME)
14:30	Samsa (ME)
16:05	Moscow (SU)
21:25	Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	200/500
Apricot	500/350
Banana	200/100
Banana (Makmur)	680
Cabbage	100/50
Carrot	100/50
Cauliflower	180/100
Cauliflower (large)	140/100
Cucumbers (small)	80/40
Eggplant	1



REGENT VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Saturday meets with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Prince Abdullah also visited the General Headquarters of the army and met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh. Also Saturday, the Regent visited the Public Security Department (PSD) for a meeting with PSD Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan (Petra photo)

Delegates urge more assistance to Palestinian educational needs

AMMAN (Petra) — At the end of week-long meeting here Saturday by Arab states on the subject of education in Palestinian self rule areas and occupied lands, a statement summing up the recommendations called on Arab League member states to provide a \$20 million fund to cover the cost of educational programmes inside the Palestinian lands.

The discussions at the meetings centred on the extension of assistance in education to Palestinians in the self rule areas and the occupied territories.

During the meeting the participants made several recommendations concerning academic, vocational and educational programmes which are broadcast on radio and television from Arab states to students in the self-rule areas and occupied lands.

The delegates representing Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt in addition to Palestine and the Arab League requested that the Palestinian delegation provide the Arab League with a list of high priority technical and administrative needs in education to enable these countries in turn to work towards specific goals.

The delegates also called for the provision of a detailed report concerning Israeli incidences of malpractice against Palestinian educational institutions.

They urged the Arab League secretariat to maintain close contact with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and to continue to hold discussions that centre on educational issues and that aim to provide assistance to Palestinian educational programmes and institutions.

Also on the agenda was the call for Arab countries to continue granting seats and scholarships to eligible Palestinian students at their universities.

The delegates discussed the general vocational training situation in Palestinian lands and again requested that the Palestinian delegation submit a report on vocational education and the type of assistance required in that area.

They asked the Arab League to press the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to expand its existing vocational training facilities.

Those recommendations, the delegates said, will be submitted to the general conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs who will hold a meeting in Cairo later this month.

Mauritanian minister ends official visit, affirms country's support for peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Mauritanian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ould Lakhhal Saturday met with His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent, and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to express his country's support for the Middle East peace process.

The Mauritanian minister said his country greatly appreciates His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for peace and for serving the Arab nation.

In welcoming Mr. Lakhhal, Prince Abdullah said that King Hussein was pursuing all efforts to bolster inter-Arab relations.

At an earlier meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Lakhhal discussed issues of common concern and commended the Kingdom's efforts in ending inter-Arab differences.

Mr. Lakhhal, who arrived in Amman Thursday evening, met separately with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and discussed the prospect of holding meet-

ings by officials from the two countries to pave the ground for joint agreements in trade, economic and cultural fields.

These agreements could be concluded during a visit by Mr. Kabariti to Mauritania at a later date.

The two ministers reviewed pan-Arab, regional and international issues of common interest and the latest developments in the peace process.

They expressed continued backing to the peace process based on international legitimacy and U. N. Security Council resolutions and their backing for the Oslo and Cairo agreements between Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

The two ministers also discussed ways of ending inter-Arab differences and discussed the situation in Bosnia.

After the meetings Mr. Lakhhal left Amman and was seen off by Mr. Kabariti and other officials.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday meets with Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ould Lakhhal who was on a one day visit to the Kingdom (Petra photo)

France, Jordan look into possibility of financing of water pipeline in the north

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — France and Jordan are discussing possibilities of financing for a pipeline project that would help pump drinking water from northern sources to Amman and dramatically improve the availability of potable water in the capital.

The project involves laying 65 kilometres of pipes from near the Yarmouk River in the north alongside the King Abdullah Canal to a main station at Deir Alla, from where the water will be pumped to Amman through an existing pipeline.

The estimated cost of the project is about \$40 million. French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajole said Thursday the two governments were discussing

financing for the project, but no definite figures were agreed upon yet.

The pipeline will have an annual pumping capacity of 45 million cubic metres in the first stage and 60 million cubic metres in the second stage.

It will be connected to a pipeline that started bringing water from Israel's Lake Tiberias to the King Abdullah Canal last month.

The pipeline is seen key to increasing the availability of drinking water to Amman and its suburbs, which are already facing a shortage and where the demand is expected to grow dramatically over the next few years.

Mr. Bajole said French financing for the project, as and when it materialises,

will be part of Paris' economic assistance to Jordan.

"The precise components of the financing, what part of it will be in aid and what part will be in concessionary loans, have not been determined yet, but we hope to arrive at an agreement soon," he told a press conference marking the end of the French presidency of the European Union (EU).

An EU diplomat said meanwhile that work was continuing swiftly on conducting feasibility studies on water projects included in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26. The studies do not include the pipeline.

"The studies on the Jordanian-Israeli projects will be in two stages," said the diplomat. "The first stage will involve sending experts

to actual site of the proposed projects for first-hand information on the terrain and features of the land and the second stage will involve detailed reviews of the technical aspects of the projects."

The projects involve two dams and diversion structures on the rivers Yarmouk and Jordan and a desalination plant in Israeli territory.

The Lake Tiberias-King Abdullah Canal pipeline, which will bring in 30 million cubic metres of water every year, is one of the projects mentioned in the peace treaty.

The \$5 million pipeline, financed by Jordan, runs 2.2 kilometres in Israeli territory and 1.1 kilometre in Jordanian land.

The EU is financing the feasibility studies on the

dam and desalination plant projects with a grant of 11 million European currency units (ECUs), about \$14 million.

The European Commission, the executive arm of the 15-member EU, is coordinating the studies, which are expected to be completed in 1996.

Subject to the finding of the feasibility studies, "which we are sure will be positive," the EU, along with other countries, will consider financing for the project, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said during a visit to Jordan last month.

Germany, whose contribution accounts for 28 per cent of the overall EU budget, is also expected to extend bilateral assistance to the projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier postpones some civil servants' leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday instructed government departments to postpone the granting of work leaves to those civil servants who have been chosen to serve on municipal election committees. Municipal election around the Kingdom are scheduled for July 11.

Lower House to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet Sunday under the chairmanship of Speaker Saed Hayel Srour to hear replies from government ministers on queries presented by the deputies in the former sessions of the chamber. Several government proposals will be referred to the concerned house committees for examination. The house will also resume discussion of a draft labour law starting from article 51.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabi press. Readers are advised to verify the listed times and places with the concerned institutions.

FILM

* "Gettysburg (Part I)" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "How Do We Attain Arab Reconciliation," by Jawdat Sa'id at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Jordanian Artist Mr. Ahmad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art.

* Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

* Ali Jabri, "Selected Works '85/'95" at Darat Al Funun, until July 4).

* Exhibition of works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery

CAMP SEASON

Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat Saturday attends a school ceremony in the Shafa Badran district marking the start of a three-week programme for youth organised by the ministry in cooperation with several other departments and the Jordan Armed Forces. A total of 7,500 youths from governorates around the Kingdom are involved in the programme entitled: Construction and Work Camps. The youths will carry out activities at 24 locations. Their chores will include maintenance work, clean up activities and tree planting. The young volunteers will also attend lectures.



Consumer protection societies meet to compare provisions and measures

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the Consumers Protection Society (CPS) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met in Amman Saturday with Health Minister Aref Batayneh and the president of the Jordanian Consumers Protection Society (JCPS) Mohammad Obaidat to discuss the aims and activities of their

organisations. The head of the UAE team, Mohammad Jassem, summarised his society's activities and measures for providing protection to consumers.

Dr. Batayneh explained his ministry's measures of controlling food supplies entering Jordan. He said such measures include labora-

tory tests conducted on food samples and inspection tours of food storage houses by health authorities.

He said that the ministry maintains close cooperation with other government departments to ensure that all foodstuffs respond to specifications and standards accepted in Jordan.

In his report, the

role of the JCPS in providing the public with consumer information was also outlined.

Dr. Batayneh was presented with a shield by Mr. Jassem in recognition of his efforts in the area of health.

Later the UAE team called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its vice president,

Saeed Alloush who spoke of the development and activities of various departments in the RSS, as well as the technical advice they offer to the Jordanian public and private organisations.

Dr. Alloush expressed the willingness of the RSS to cooperate with the UAE society in matters concerning consumer protection

Aref Batayneh

Serbs shell Sarajevo at random

(Continued from page 1)

The Serbs on Friday denied shelling the U.N. facilities.

Tension over the U.N. mission in former Yugoslavia have soared in recent days with both the government and rebel Serbs lashing out at the peacekeeping force.

The government on Friday said it would no longer deal with the U.N.'s top envoy, after asking the Security

Council to review the peacekeeping mission.

The Serbs meanwhile responded with anger to a German Parliament vote Friday to send fighter jets to Bosnia to protect a rapid reaction force that is supposed to bolster the flagging U.N. mission.

"Their arrival will be tantamount to a military occupation," Bosnian Serb Television said, recalling the harsh Nazi invasion of the Balkans. "Sending German soldiers is

like putting out a fire with petrol."

The foreign ministry of Serb-led Yugoslavia on Saturday also expressed "serious concern" over the German decision.

"It is neither wise nor useful that Germany should again find herself in a military role in the Balkans, even under the wing of the United Nations peace forces," the ministry statement said.

Government and Serb troops battled around the Serb-held southwestern Sarajevo suburb of Nedzar-

ici, which borders the U.N.-controlled airport.

Fighting was also reported around a village further to the southwest. Bosnian Serbs said three civilians were wounded in Serb-held suburbs.

U.N. spokesman Major Guy Vinet said the Serbs may have gained some ground in a western suburb on Friday.

U.N. officials, who have been barred from front lines, are limited in their ability to confirm battlefield movements.

On Friday, battles were focused around a village just north of Sarajevo, where U.N. officials said it appeared government forces outside the city had advanced four kilometres in the past two weeks.

In Copenhagen, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry categorically denied that Washington had ever provided arms to the Bosnian government.

"We are not providing weapons to the Bosnian government, now or ever," Mr. Perry told reporters on the second day of his visit to

Denmark, denying an allegation by a top French civil servant quoted in the Danish press on Saturday.

"The French official, unnamed, is simply wrong. Either he is misinformed or he is deliberately fabricating a story," said Mr. Perry.

"We have indeed regular discussions, consultations with the Bosnian government. We have an ambassador in Sarajevo, but regarding the question of providing arms to the Bosnians, the answer is categorically no."

The Director and Staff of The Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, D.C. mourn the passing away of their friend **Mona Saket Rifai** wife of their colleague, Dr. Taleb Rifai. May her soul rest in peace. Our hearts and thoughts are with the Rifai and Saket families.

Pacific anti-nuclear protests rage on against France

PAPEETE, Tahiti (R) — The capital of the island of Tahiti was thrown into chaos for a second day as thousands protesting against the resumption of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific blocked its main roads.

French radio said there were also protests in Noumea, the capital of French-controlled New Caledonia off the east coast of Australia, where some 2,000 people demonstrated peacefully.

The blockade at Papeete started Thursday as the Rainbow Warrior II, flagship of the environmental lobby group Greenpeace, sailed into the port.

Refused permission to dock at the main quay, Quai d'Honneur, the ship remained in the harbour for 24 hours before tying up at a temporary anchorage in the middle of Papeete Harbour.

Greenpeace campaign leader Stephanie Mills said she had been told the ship

was not allowed to dock for security reasons.

Ms. Mills and another crew member have been told they will be deported immediately if they go ashore, as they are banned persons, having been deported in 1992 after a previous protest voyage.

French authorities have said they may invite Greenpeace representatives to visit the Mururoa Atoll, where France is due to carry out a final series of eight underground nuclear blasts.

But Ms. Mills told a news conference on board the Rainbow Warrior that the group had received no such invitation and if they did it would be refused.

Two previous invitations to visit Mururoa in 1989 and 1992 came to nothing as authorities rejected Greenpeace's conditions.

The demonstration organisers estimated that 15,000 Tahitians had converged on Papeete from all directions for the start of the protest



U.S. Astronaut Bonnie J. Dumbard (right) shakes hands with Russian Cosmonaut Gennady M. Strekalov (left) on board the Mir space station after the crew of the shuttle Atlantis successfully docked with the Mir.

Atlantis-Mir crew celebrate linkup

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — The crew of the newly created Atlantis-Mir space shuttle exchanged gifts and joined two halves of a medalion to celebrate "the linking of ideas, wills, people."

But first, officials got into the act.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, meeting in Moscow this week, congratulated the astronauts and cosmonauts who had crowded into the Mir core module. For the occasion, Russian and American flags were hung as a backdrop.

"It's great to see our two great flags side-by-side there in orbit above the Earth," Mr. Gore said.

"Two years ago we began to work on this joint project," Mr. Chernomyrdin said. "We now see the results of this work and it is great to see a 220-tonne complex flying in orbit the way you are."

Joined by a 1-metre-long (3-foot-long) pressurised tunnel in their docking Thursday, the shuttle Atlantis and the space station Mir formed the largest manmade satellite ever to orbit the Earth. It was a forerunner of an international outpost expected to have a permanent place in space by the turn of the century.

"It is very pleasant to look at it," said cosmonaut Anatoly Soloviyev, who hitched a ride on the shuttle to take command of the permanently orbiting Mir.

"This docking has laid a foundation for work in this new programme," he said of joint space endeavours planned by the United States and Russia.

"It is not only a mechanical docking but also a linking of ideas, wills, peoples in order to form a very great scientific programme," Soloviyev said.

In the final analysis, this is done only to obtain significant results in orbit so humankind on Earth can live better and receive the interesting and great scientific results that are forthcoming.

Later in the day, the serious work of gauging the effects of prolonged space flight began in earnest as astronaut-physician Ellen Baker collected fluid samples from the two Russians and one American who had been on Mir nearly four months.

The vials of blood, saliva and urine will be in the shuttle freezer for the return to Earth, along with samples collected over time aboard Mir.

The shuttle crew also was troubleshooting an apparent hardware problem with one of five computers. Mission control said loss of the computer would have no impact on the mission.

In the gift exchange, the space travellers unwrapped presents one by one.

White carnations from Shuttle Commander Robert Gibson for the three men who had been in Mir for 105 days-watches for the Atlantis crew from Vladimir Dezhnev, outgoing commander of the Mir whose 33rd birthday is Friday.

The crews then followed the tradition set during the only other spacecraft merger, the Apollo-Soyuz linkup of 20 years ago, and joined two halves of a medalion the size of a salad plate.

And they ceremoniously put together models of the Atlantis and the Mir into the configuration in which they are flying.

The formal gift exchange ceremony was an anti-climax because the crews had already sealed Thursday's docking with hugs, kisses, handshakes and the traditional Russian salt-and-bread welcome.

Venice begins tourist-only ferries

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Same canal, different boats. That's the plan this summer for residents and tourists in an attempt to ease crowding aboard the barge-like motor vessels used as public transportation. Beginning Saturday, Venetians and visitors will have different boarding points for the boats, or "vaporetti," on two of the busiest routes: To the Rialto Bridge area in the centre of Venice and Piazzale Roma, at the end of the causeway from the mainland. The change, which remains in effect until September, is intended to provide less-crowded boats for residents who rely on the vessels every day, transportation officials said. Service in other parts of the canal-laced city should not be affected. It is the second recent change in operations on the canals. Earlier this month, four motor-powered gondolas were approved because of waves caused by heavy boat traffic on the main canals.

You're a man doctors tell married woman

BEIJING (R) — Doctors in China's central Hunan province have told a 26-year-old married woman she is actually a man with a rare genetic disorder, the Xinhua News Agency said Friday. Li sought doctors at the Hunan Medical University earlier this month because she had no menses and could not conceive, the agency said. The doctors discovered that, according to Li's chromosomes make-up, she was actually male, though a missing gene caused her to appear female, it said. Li is the first such known case in China, it said. Xinhua quoted experts as saying Li's female features were not pronounced and that her uterus resembled that of a five-year-old. Doctors are treating Li with the female hormone Estrogen, it said.

Surgeon blames botched surgery for having wrong patient

NEW YORK (AP) — A prominent brain surgeon says he accidentally operated on the healthy side of the brain of the mother of India's top film star because he had the wrong patient. "Though this was a terrible tragedy, it was a result of miscommunication, not careless surgery," Ehud Arbib said in a statement given to New York Newsday by his lawyer, David Hoffman. The surgery last month at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre was on the healthy right temporal brain lobe of Rajeswar Ayyappan, mother of Indian film star Shridevi. Mrs. Ayyappan had flown to the cancer for surgery on a malignant tumour on the opposite temporal lobe. Mrs. Ayyappan, 59, later had the correct surgery at New York Hospital, where she is in stable condition and receiving radiation treatments. Dr. Arbib has since been suspended from performing surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. Mr. Hoffman said the mixup started on May 25, when Mrs. Ayyappan first arrived in New York. She had been referred to a colleague of Dr. Arbib who was unable to treat her and sent the case to Dr. Arbib. Mr. Hoffman told Newsday, Dr. Hoffman said Dr. Arbib did not know Mrs. Ayyappan. Shortly before Mr. Ayyappan came to New York, another colleague of Dr. Arbib had asked him to examine a patient from India, a hospital source told Newsday. The paper said that man's last name is "Gupta." The film showed Mr. Gupta had a malignant brain tumour of the right temporal lobe. But Dr. Arbib advised his colleague to tell Mr. Gupta not to come to New York because the tumour was so far advanced, the paper said. On May 25, when Mrs. Ayyappan and her family went to Dr. Arbib's office at the hospital, someone on the doctor's staff told him "the patient from India" had arrived. Mr. Hoffman told Newsday, Dr. Arbib then met with Mrs. Ayyappan, her doctor from India and her family. Mr. Hoffman said Dr. Arbib asked his Indian visitors: "Are you the (Gupta) family?" "They all nodded and said, yes, they were," Mr. Hoffman said. "We just can't explain why they did that."

Landslide claims 20 lives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — At least 20 people were killed when a landslide swept vehicles off a mountain road in pouring rain as they drove to a casino in Malaysia's popular genting highlands resort, police said Saturday.

A wall of mud, uprooted trees, boulders and water swept down a hillside Friday on the road that winds up to the casino, 75 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur. It buried at least 15 vehicles, police and rescue officials said.

A Japanese, a Filipino and a five-month-old baby were among the dead in one of Malaysia's worst landslide disasters. Officials said the death toll stood at 20 by mid-afternoon on Saturday. Earlier they said 21 people had died.

Another 23 people were taken to hospital with injuries. 16 of them serious, hospital officials said.

The search for victims continued Saturday evening more than 24 hours after the landslide.

Some survivors had been travelling in a bus when a minor landslide occurred and they were forced to get out and walk.

As they were walking down the road, the first of two major landslides roared down, sweeping the driver and his 30 passengers with it, rescue workers said.

Some scrambled to safety or were pulled out by the rescuers, others were buried alive.

The second slide caused part of the road to collapse into a 70-metre-deep (230-foot-deep) ravine, dragging along four cars and several people who had abandoned their vehicles.

China postpones talks with Taiwan

BEIJING (R) — China Saturday postponed scheduled talks with arch-rival Taiwan, punishing the island for "a series of wrong-doings" linked to its attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation.

The Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits has suggested postponing routine talks with its Taiwan counterpart, the Xinhua News Agency said.

The association and the foundation are semi-official organisations that handle bilateral relations to skirt a decades-old ban by Taipei on official contact.

"It is appropriate to postpone routine talks between leaders of the two non-governmental organisations since a series of doings by the Taiwan authorities have severely damaged the basis for stabilising and developing cross-strait relations," an association official was quoted as saying.

The association and foundation secretaries-general were scheduled to hold routine talks once every three months or in July.

It was the second time in two weeks that the association had put off talks with its Taiwan counterpart.

Last month, China postponed high-level talks between the chairman of the association and the foundation, also slated for July.

Analysts said the Chinese move to postpone routine talks was meant as a punishment because Taiwan was more eager than China to resolve a series of problems at the talks, such as fishing disputes.

Uneasy relations between Beijing and Taipei, rivals since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, have been strained by President Lee Teng-Hui's visit to the United States in June.

Beijing, which considers Taiwan a rebel province, has sought to isolate the island diplomatically. Only 29 countries recognise Taiwan.

Hair expert ties Simpson to murder scene

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hair expert Nicole Brown Simpson's hair was found on a pair of bloody gloves the prosecution claims O.J. Simpson wore when he allegedly killed his ex-wife and her friend, an FBI expert testified Friday.

FBI hair and fiber expert Doug Deedrick also said hair similar to Ronald Goldman's was found on the right-hand glove, discovered at the football great's home the morning after the June 12, 1994, murder. The left glove was found at the murder scene outside Nicole Simpson's luxury condominium, two miles (three-km) away.

Mr. Deedrick also said hair similar to that on Simpson's head was found on Goldman's shirt and hair from limbs was found on Goldman's shirt and in the right glove. Head hair similar to that of Simpson was on his wife's hairbrush and on the knit watch cap recovered from the murder scene, he said.

Simpson, a popular sportscaster and TV pitchman after his football career, has pleaded not guilty to the murders.

Mr. Deedrick was ordered by Judge Lance Ito not to use the word "match" when describing the similarity between the hairs after the expert had explained that hair and fiber analysis was an inexact science. Instead, Mr. Deedrick limited himself to saying the evidence hair "exhibited the same microscopic characteristics" as known hair samples from the victims.

He said the hair found on the gloves was "cut and torn," indicating it had been "forcibly removed" or ripped from the scalp of the victims.

A previous expert witness, Los Angeles Coroner Dr. Lakshmanan Sathayavaran, testified that he believed the killer grasped both victims by their hair as he slit and stabbed their throats.

Mr. Deedrick said a "mystery hair" on the right glove could have come from Goldman but definitely did not come from any crime lab workers or detectives in the case, including Mark Fuhrman, whom the defence has accused of planting the glove on Simpson's estate.

There were also dog hairs on the right-hand glove that could have come from Nicole Simpson's akita, who led passersby to the bodies of the victims after the murders.



London home-beat "bobby" Ian Kilburn finds it hot going on point duty, as the temperatures continue to rise in the capital (AFP photo)

Britons sweat as flaming June finally arrives

LONDON (AP) — Railway tracks have buckled. Scottish roads are melting. One sunbather's skirt caught fire.

Not everyone would call temperatures in the high 80s a heat wave. But to the fair-skinned British, more used to drizzle and chill, "flaming June" has arrived with a vengeance.

So it's sunbathes all round as "mad dogs and Englishmen" go out in the midday sun. In the pithy lyric by Noel Coward.

"We've got to make the most of it, this could be the only summer we get," said Yorkshirewoman Linda Beecham as she exposed pale arms to the sun in London's Trafalgar Square Friday. Her 11-year-old son Neil wore a baseball cap with integral battery operated fan — bought on a family vacation in Spain.

There was no chance of a cooling dip in the square's famous fountains, however. They are turned off while the plinth beneath Nelson's column is refurbished.

"It's diabolical. As an Englishman, I'm embarrassed," said ice cream seller Brian Thomas. "There's nothing for tourists or the locals."

In Central London, the temperature at midday Friday was 88 F (31 C), the hottest June day in the capital since 1976, according to the

Italy launches major mafia crackdown

ROME (R) — Police said Saturday they had arrested a leading mafia suspect and were looking for about 150 others in a crackdown on organised crime extending from northern Italy to Sicily.

Natale D'Emmanuele, 35, the alleged "financial mind" of the mafia in the eastern Sicilian city of Catania and cousin of jailed boss Benedetto "Nitto" Santapaola, was arrested in a dawn swoop on his house outside the city.

Police said Mr. D'Emmanuele had a stranglehold on cemetery plots in Catania and dealt in arms and drugs trafficking, extortion and illegal money lending. He had been sought since December 1993.

In a separate operation, in the southern mainland region of Calabria, police said they were searching for alleged leading members of the local 'Ndrangheta mafia after magistrates issued 143 arrest warrants.

Police, who called "Operation Galaxy" one of their largest mafia crackdowns ever, said they had made several arrests early Saturday in northern, central and southern Italy.

A week ago police arrested mafia chief Leoluca

7 shot in San Francisco's Chinatown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A gunfight between two groups of youths erupted on the streets of Chinatown Friday evening, injuring seven people, two seriously.

Shots were fired as one group chased another. Police Cmdr. Dennis Martel said. At least one bystander, a woman four months pregnant, was among the victims.

The shooting began after five or six youths standing on a corner were approached by another group, Cmdr. Martel said. The first group fled, but it was not clear which group opened fire.

A 23-year-old man shot in the abdomen was listed in critical condition and a 16-year-old boy shot in the groin was in serious condition at San Francisco General Hospital.

Four others were in stable condition at the hospital, including the pregnant woman who had gunshot wounds in her back and feet, said Dr. Steven Hoffmann.

U.S. court moves to right on social issues

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court, dominated by an aggressive conservative majority, has moved sharply to the right on contentious social issues touching everything from student life to politics and religion.

In the 1994-95 term ending Thursday, the conservatives with just a 5-to-4 majority in a string of rulings, cut back historic civil rights protections and lowered the traditional wall of separation between church and state.

The nine-member high court also upheld drug testing of student-athletes and ruled that Congress exceeded its legal authority by banning guns near schools, a decision that may lead to the return of more power to the states on that issue.

Legal experts agreed the term showed a significant shift to the right, but said it remained to be seen if the court has launched a conservative revolution that will cast aside many liberal precedents from the past 50 years.

"This term saw a dramatic shift with the conservatives not only exerting more control, but also engaging in judicial activism by striking down laws and policies," Georgetown University law Professor Louis Michael Seidman said.

He said the court appeared to take note of the 1994 election in which Republicans regained complete control of Congress from President Bill Clinton's Democrats for the first time since 1954.

"Ideas thought to have been crackpot a year ago now are in the mainstream," Prof. Seidman said, adding that the key factor will be how the court follows up its rulings later. "A lot turns on future appointments and the 1996 election," he said.

The conservative faction consists of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and the slightly more moderate Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor — all appointed by Republican presidents.

The more liberal wing is made up of justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. The latter two were chosen by Mr. Clinton.

The liberal American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said the court's historic commitment to racial justice "took a severe beating" during the term.

The ACLU denounced decisions that set tough new restrictions on federal affirmative action programs benefiting minorities and on the drawing of voting districts based on race. It also endorsed a school desegregation ruling.

"The Supreme Court is reflecting the mood of the country. It is no longer offering the country a higher moral vision," said ACLU legal director Steven Shapiro.

Conservative court analyst Bruce Fein called it one of the best terms for conservatives in several years, but said, "it is premature to claim a Super Bowl victory."

He said the court may be moving slowly to restrict affirmative action rather than abolishing it entirely because of the intense political controversy surrounding the issue and in the hope that Congress might act on its own.

Not all the major decisions handed down this term followed the 5-4, conservative-liberal split.

The court did strike down laws setting term limits for members of Congress, a politically popular idea generally backed by conservative Republicans, and it did preserve the government's ability to protect endangered species in a major victory for environmentalists.

Business

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Dabbas: Government to study salary hikes

The government is expected to start considering civil servant salaries next week following an agreement in June when it agreed to consider these salaries at the beginning of July every year. Chairman of the House of Representatives Ali Dabbas said the government had sent a memorandum to the government to study the salaries of civil servants. The Finance Committee, Mr. Dabbas said, will start following up the issue soon. He said the government pays its employees wages in accordance with the financial equities and economic indicators, including the rise in prices. The government has linked any pay rise to the House's approval of increasing the minimum wage from seven to 10 per cent. The government cannot go ahead and shoulder a huge financial burden without giving other measures which would enable it to pay more in order to be approved, he said. The last pay raise was in June 1992, when the Ministry of Labour estimated a 25 per cent rise would cost \$5.5 million annually (Iraqi dinars).

Prices in the Jordan rose between 10 per cent as a result of the East peace process. The Jordan Estate Investment Company said. Mr. K. Al-Khatib said the price of a dunum (10,000 sq m) in the Jordan Valley (JD 10,000) up to JD 100,000. He said the price of annual crops has increased. He said the price of real estate in Amman has increased. He said the price of real estate in Amman has increased. He said the price of real estate in Amman has increased.



South Korean emergency workers rescue a young woman from the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store in Seoul (AFP photo)

Grachev survives but faces battle for job

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's close personal ties with President Boris Yeltsin have saved his skin for now but the architect of Moscow's Chechnya campaign may still face a battle to survive.

Mr. Yeltsin sacked four top officials Friday over a bloody hostage taking in the southern town of Budennovsk but ignored parliamentary deputies' calls for Gen. Grachev to be axed and the minister's own offer to resign over the crisis and the broader campaign in rebel Chechnya.

"He is still needed by the president," said Sergei Glaziev, head of the opposition Democratic Party of Russia Saturday. He was speaking shortly after the government had survived a no-confidence vote in the State Duma lower house of parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin owes Gen. Grachev, who has risen through the ranks from paratrooper to four-star general, an enormous political debt.

The 47-year-old Afghan war veteran supported Mr.

Yeltsin during a failed coup against last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991 and backed him in October 1993, ordering his tanks, albeit after long hesitation, to blast Mr. Yeltsin's headline opponents in the White House parliament building.

Mr. Yeltsin has been keen to court the army, mindful of the influence it has had and could have again on Russian politics.

"The president is afraid to destabilise the army. Gen. Grachev has created a command structure by now and all the top generals were appointed by him," said Alexander Piskunov, deputy head of the Duma Defence Committee.

"If he is replaced by a prominent figure, the command structure would be changed and Yeltsin didn't want that."

But other deputies said time may be running out for Gen. Grachev, whom Mr. Yeltsin has called "the best defence minister Russia or the Soviet Union ever had."

The chaotic Chechnya campaign, in which thousands of people have been killed in more than six months of fighting, is highly unpopular and was one of the key reasons why the Duma passed an earlier vote of no confidence in the government on June 21.

"I think Grachev is doomed but he will be needed as a big sacrifice for Chechnya, not just for Budennovsk. He will be sacked shortly before the presidential elections," said Vyacheslav Nikonov of the centrist Pres Faction.

Reformist former Acting Premier Yegor Gaidar said his Russia's Choice bloc still wanted Gen. Grachev to be sacked.

"We think it is necessary for military reform," he said.

But Gen. Grachev is proving to be a great survivor.

Even before the Chechen campaign began in December, Gen. Grachev faced calls to quit with analysts saying army morale was low.

The crisis intensified last October after Dmitry Khodolov, a Moscow newspaper

journalist, was blown up while investigating corruption in the army and among top Russian officials. Gen. Grachev denied involvement in corruption or Khodolov's death.

In February, Mr. Yeltsin sacked a deputy defence minister closely associated with Gen. Grachev and speculation grew that the minister would also go.

But he stayed and despite criticism at home and abroad, his troops have crushed most rebel resistance in Chechnya. It was a confident-looking Grachev who called at a military parade marking the end of World War II in Europe for spending on the armed forces to be boosted.

Reports emerged around that time that Mr. Yeltsin was about to make Gen. Grachev Russia's first marshal.

Many deputies and analysts say Mr. Yeltsin and Gen. Grachev are bound together by the blood split in 1993 and by close personal friendship.

Gen. Lebed is a hero for speaking out. Everything from the corrupt brass to the handling of the war in Chechnya to the policies of the president has aroused his ire.

He and Gen. Grachev, once old army buddies, became bitter enemies. "There is no room for me in Grachev's army," Gen. Lebed said Friday. "That's for sure."

For a long time, President Boris Yeltsin backed Gen. Lebed in his sparring with Gen. Grachev, even when Gen. Lebed publicly condemned the president as a "minus" for Russia.

Some observers speculated that Mr. Yeltsin felt safer with Gen. Lebed, a potential campaign rival, confined within the ranks of the army rather than loose on the political scene.

When Mr. Yeltsin accepted Gen. Lebed's resignation on June 14, the respected daily newspaper Segodnya called it political "suicide."

The day after Gen. Lebed gave up his command, the ministry ordered the 14th Army to begin returning its hundreds of thousands of weapons and hundreds of thousands of tons of ammunition back to Moscow.

Within the troubled ranks of Russia's post-Soviet army,

Gen. Lebed tendered his resignation.

He insists a pullout could reignite the civil war, in part because the 14th's immense arsenal might fall into the wrong hands as troop strength shrinks.

The entire army would have to load freight trains for 22 months without stopping to remove all the arms and ammunition," he told reporters as he left Tiraspol, capital of the breakaway region and headquarters of the 14th Army.

The 14th Army consists of about 10,000 troops, most of them conscripted locally by Gen. Lebed despite protests from the Defence Ministry. "I only maintained combat strength," Gen. Lebed insisted.

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24 rescued from collapsed S. Korean department store

SEOUL (AP) — Greased down with vegetable oil and liquid soap, 24 survivors slithered to safety Saturday, more than 51 hours after being trapped beneath tonnes of debris from a collapsed shopping mall.

As night fell, feverish work continued to save more than two dozen people from three other pockets and search for more survivors. Cranes and other heavy equipment that had been removing heavy concrete slabs were stilled out of fear the shaky rubble could cave in.

A five-story wing of Sampoong Department Store collapsed Thursday, killing at least 113 people, injuring 910 and leaving 246 unaccounted for. About 60 people had been rescued earlier.

Mostly contract cleaners for the ritzy store, the 24 people who were pulled out by rope, then carried by stretcher or piggyback by rescuers, had survived together in a dressing room in the third basement of the shopping complex.

Once they were detected, it took rescue workers 13 hours to painstakingly clear a hole through the jumble of concrete slabs and iron rods, using electric saws, torches and car jacks and their hands.

While they waited, a long steel pipe was sent down to provide fresh air, water and food.

The 10 men and 14 women were all believed to be in their 40s and 50s. One was reported to be slightly injured, but the others said they were largely unscathed.

The first two to emerge were greeted by applause and cheers from hundreds of family members and reporters.

They were all taken to waiting ambulances, many shielding their eyes or covering them with towels against the sudden glare of flood-lamps and photographers' strobes. The sound of sirens filled the night.

Officials blamed the disaster on shoddy construction. Four executives of the shopping complex were arrested Saturday night on negligence charges. Police had said they knew the top floor was crumbling hours before the disaster but decided not to close and left without warning anyone.

Yonhap TV reported 22 people remained in one pocket in the third basement. Res-

cue workers earlier had found five people alive in two different pockets in the basement of the complex's other wing, which also was heavily damaged.

The Red Cross asked relatives to provide the numbers of pagers or cellular phones that the missing may have been carrying. It hoped that rescuers or sound detectors could hear the devices beeping, even if the owners were unconscious.

Among the missing was Frank Bakes, a 58-year-old power-plant engineer from Oradell, New Jersey, who had gone to the mall just before the collapse to shop. Also missing were an unidentified 35-year-old French businessman and a 45-year-old Taiwanese chef.

Officials had almost abandoned hope of finding more survivors Saturday, after thick plumes of toxic smoke from fires set off by crushed cars in the basement parking lots blanketed the lower reaches of the rubble.

They later discovered that the fire started in the second basement parking lot. The smoke rose through the rubble, raising the possibility of more survivors in the third and fourth basements, officials said.

Tales of dramatic rescues and tragedies filled newspapers and television reports. Funeral services were held Saturday for three victims.

Roh Sung-Eun was to have married Saturday. Disheartened, she instead was running from hospital to hospital for word about her missing fiancé.

"I'm almost crazy," Ms. Roh said, her eyes reddened and her voice cracked after constant sleeplessness.

Ms. Roh, 26, was delighted when her fiancé, Kim Sung-Hwan, 30, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, took her to the department store Thursday to do shopping for their upcoming wedding.

As they were about to leave, Kim asked her to wait a few minutes, saying he forgot to buy something. It was the last time she saw him.

Her father, Roh Jong-Sang, a lawyer, Saturday called each of the guests invited to the wedding to notify them that the ceremony was "just postponed, not cancelled."

"I still believe he will come back alive," he said, his voice choked with emotion.

Late Friday, a 40-year-old high school teacher was rescued, 27 hours after he was trapped, during which he entrusted a last will to a stranger nearby.

"I don't know whether I am alive or dreaming," the teacher, Hong Sung-Tae, smiling, told reporters from a hospital bed. "I experienced what my mother told me when I was young: 'Where there is a will, there is a way.'"

Mr. Hong, convinced he was going to die, asked a woman trapped nearby to find two bankbooks in his school desk and hand them to his wife and son. The woman was rescued earlier.

Mr. Hong's was one of about 40 dramatic rescues of bloodied and battered victims Friday. Four people were rescued Saturday morning.

High-tech sound equipment donated by the U.S. military arrived from Hawaii and was put to work Saturday, trying to detect other survivors beneath the tangled debris. Other detectors had come from Japan Friday evening.

Relatives posted notices on hospital walls with photos and descriptions of the missing.

President Kim Young-Sam visited the site and ordered renewed safety checks on high-rises and other large buildings.

"I cannot stop feeling grief," President Kim said, after visiting the site.

Some 40,000 people shopped daily at the bright pink, 356-shop complex, comprised of two wings connected by a three-story lobby and four levels underground. It was built on a slope over a former garbage dump.

It was the latest in a string of accidents attributed to slipshod workmanship.

Two deadly gas explosions this year killed 113 people, and a bridge collapse in Seoul last October killed another 32.

South Korean rescue workers remove the wreckage from the collapsed Sampoong Department Store as they search for survivors (AFP photo)

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Maverick Russian general begins political career

MOSCOW (AP) — Alexander Lebed, one of Russia's most popular generals, headed for Moscow Friday and a new career in politics that could soon blossom into a presidential campaign.

Gen. Lebed will take up new duties in the Russian capital as deputy chairman of the Congress of Russian Communities, a party dedicated to protecting the 25 million ethnic Russians in neighbouring countries that were once part of the Soviet Union.

Although the Congress has a distinctly nationalist platform, Gen. Lebed's views on many pressing political issues are still unknown. He calls himself a centrist.

Gen. Lebed resigned his command last month rather than oversee the dismantling of his beloved 14th Army.

His staunch patriotism, plain-spoken manner and reputation as a tough commander have given him broad appeal, especially among Russians longing for a firm hand to impose order on Russia's post-Soviet chaos and

restore national pride.

"We have everything: A rich land that covers an eighth of the globe, uncountable natural resources. And we've lived like swine for decades," Gen. Lebed said in a television interview Friday, vowing to change things.

A career military man not known for his political sophistication, Gen. Lebed said Friday he's considering a run for the presidency in 1996.

Polls indicate he is already one of Russia's more popular public figures. Insiders say he is already the candidate-in-waiting most feared by long-established politicians and a wild card in the electoral deck.

The 45-year-old paratrooper became a national hero three years ago when he took command of the 14th Army in the breakaway Trans-Dniester region of Moldova, a former Soviet republic bordering Hungary, and ended a civil war.

When Defence Minister Pavel Grachev decided to cut the Russian contingent in

Poland, Gen. Lebed tendered his resignation.

He insists a pullout could reignite the civil war, in part because the 14th's immense arsenal might fall into the wrong hands as troop strength shrinks.

The entire army would have to load freight trains for 22 months without stopping to remove all the arms and ammunition," he told reporters as he left Tiraspol, capital of the breakaway region and headquarters of the 14th Army.

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Mandela urges Inkatha, ANC end violence

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (R) — President Nelson Mandela, at the funeral of an old comrade in the Zulu heartland, urged supporters of his African National Congress (ANC) and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party Saturday to end political violence.

"There are too many orphans and widows. Fresh graves litter the hills and valleys. Families are torn apart," Mr. Mandela told several thousand mourners at the funeral of ANC veteran Harry Gwala in KwaZulu-Natal province.

"Now is the time to change all this. Nothing, absolutely nothing, must be spared to ensure that life, limb and property are protected."

At least 11,000 people have been killed in a decade of political fighting between supporters of the ANC and those of the Zulu-based IFP.

The IFP, which rules in KwaZulu-Natal, is a junior partner in Mr. Mandela's coalition government but is at loggerheads with the ANC over demands for greater provincial powers.

Mr. Mandela said the greatest enemy of the people of KwaZulu-Natal was political

violence.

"I call with all humility on members of the ANC and IFP, the church, youth, intellectuals and business. Everybody must now stand up and fight for peace and unity. To the youth, it is your future that is being destroyed. You can't allow political leaders to destroy your future."

"Both in the ANC and IFP are decent people... let us forget everything and stand up and unite and fight for these things (development)," Mr. Mandela said.

About 5,000 people listened as Mr. Mandela paid tribute to Gwala at the heavily-guarded Jan Smuts Stadium, in the city of Pietermaritzburg.

Armed police and soldiers said they were not taking chances with Mr. Mandela's security and mourners were searched for weapons as they arrived at the stadium.

Gwala, a Stalinist and hardline member of ANC and the South African Communist Party, died from heart failure last week at the age of 74.

"Our ranks have been robbed of the company of a unique revolutionary, an honest comrade whose ton-

gue was as sharp as his agile mind," Mr. Mandela said.

Gwala spent two prison terms with Mr. Mandela, 76, on Robben Island for his involvement in the military struggle to topple South Africa's former apartheid government.

"(He) has left a void that will be difficult to fill," Mr. Mandela said, referring to the man dubbed the "lion of the midlands" for his fiery rhetoric and opposition to the old apartheid order and his political foes in Inkatha.

He said Gwala was brave and blunt in dealing with the defenders of apartheid, "but he was equally honest and blunt in raising issues within the ranks of the liberation movement."

Gwala's simple coffin, guarded by several men in the uniform of the ANC's former armed wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), was decorated with a single wreath of flowers.

Later Saturday, President Mandela left for Japan and South Korea on a mission to sell the new South Africa and to assure business and government his post-apartheid rainbow nation was investor-

friendly.

Japanese and Korean diplomats expected the visits would strengthen expanding ties, with Japan already South Africa's biggest aid donor.

In Tokyo, a Japanese official said: "President Mandela's visit will be a symbolic event marking the beginning of Japan's new relations with South Africa and all African nations."

Besides formal state functions, Mr. Mandela — on his third trip to Japan since 1990 — will attend lunches hosted by business leaders in Tokyo and Seoul. He is being accompanied by Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo.

He will meet Japanese leaders including Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama and Emperor Akihito.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Mandela was disappointed during his last visit in 1991 at the Japanese government's then refusal to provide funds to the ANC because it said it financially aided governments not political parties.

But he stayed and despite criticism at home and abroad, his troops have crushed most rebel resistance in Chechnya. It was a confident-looking Grachev who called at a military parade marking the end of World War II in Europe for spending on the armed forces to be boosted.

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Some observers speculated that Mr. Yeltsin felt safer with Gen. Lebed, a potential campaign rival, confined within the ranks of the army rather than loose on the political scene.

When Mr. Yeltsin accepted Gen. Lebed's resignation on June 14, the respected daily newspaper Segodnya called it political "suicide."

Major, Redwood woo doubters in leadership fight

LONDON (R) — John Major and John Redwood Saturday sought to woo the waverers and doubters in the Conservative leadership election as a survey of party supporters gave the British prime minister a resounding vote of confidence.

With only three days to go before members of parliament vote in a secret ballot for the man they want to lead the party and the country, Mr. Redwood denied claims that his low tax, anti-Europe campaign was losing momentum.

Mr. Redwood, until last Monday a cabinet minister, has yet to prove that his appeal reaches beyond a small circle of disaffected Conservatives opposed to

Britain ever joining a single European currency.

But he said Saturday many of his supporters were wary of declaring themselves.

"We are getting a lot of private indications of support from across the party," Mr. Redwood told BBC Radio.

"I think you will find that many more will decide they would like to vote for me but they won't necessarily come out in public in support," he said.

A survey carried out by the BBC showed Saturday that 93 per cent of the heads of Conservative local party associations backed Mr. Major, while only 6 per cent supported Mr. Redwood.

But a disturbing 40 per cent believed Mr. Major would fail to secure the support of some 100 MPs or more.

Mr. Major needs the backing of 165 of the 329 Conservative members of parliament and a margin of 50 votes over Mr. Redwood to win outright Tuesday's first secret ballot.

Political commentators say however he would be fatally damaged whatever the formal outcome if more than 100 MPs abstained or voted against him.

Mr. Major, who threw down the election challenge saying he wanted to clear the air after years of in-fighting, has turned tough in his campaign.

"People have been asking for a lead. They are going to get one," he said on Friday. "There will be no tolerance for this nonsense any longer. They know only too well where I am going and I am inviting them to follow. I think they will," Mr. Major added.

But with the Conservatives currently some 30 points behind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls, Mr. Redwood has appealed directly to MPs who fear for their re-election chances.

His office dispatched leaflets to all MPs Saturday saying "save your seat, save your party and save your country — vote John Redwood."

The Paris-based politician denied reports that Hutus were rearming and training, ready for a violent return.

"RDR has twice refuted these reports, whose sole aim was to prepare the international community to accept lifting the arms embargo imposed on Kigali by the United Nations in May 1994," he said.

Mr. Kanyarushoki called on the international community to pressure Kigali into talks with the RDR and for it to enact confidence building measures to enable the return of refugees.

Kigali has repeatedly refused to negotiate with what it says

Egypt rules out attack on Sudan

(Continued from page 1)

Ethiopian security men, were involved in the plot. Without citing proof, Mr. Mubarak has specifically named Sheikh Hassan Tourabi, the Islamic leader widely regarded as the power behind Sudan's government, as the mastermind of the attempt. Sudanese leaders have denied any role, blaming it instead on Egyptian militants waging a three-year Islamic revolt against the Cairo government. More than 800 people have died in the insurgency although it has diminished in recent months.

Dr. Baz's remark did little to soften the rhetoric in Khartoum.

A van with a loudspeaker rambled through the Sudanese capital's dusty streets and urged residents to gather Monday for a demonstration against the "arrogance of Mubarak."

"We will make Halaib a graveyard of the invaders," the loudspeaker said, referring to a disputed border area.

Meanwhile, the leader of Sudan's government, Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir, promised to give a gun to any civilian who could carry one to repulse any Egyptian attack. He promised not to "relinquish an

inch" of Halaib. "Sudan is facing a great conspiracy from Hosni Mubarak," Gen. Bashir told a rally Friday.

Sudan's army, vastly inferior to Egypt's, is tied up fighting a long-running war against southern rebels.

Since Gen. Bashir's 1989 coup, relations with Egypt have never been good. The two have sparred repeatedly over Halaib, and Egypt has accused Sudan of training and financing militants.

Sudan, named by Washington as a state sponsoring "terrorism," has criticised Egypt for giving refuge to Sudanese dissidents.

Both countries have sought to use the assassination attempt and border skirmishes to whip up anger and bolster sagging popularity.

Al Ingaz Al Watani, a Sudanese government newspaper, said soldiers would make a pledge of "holy war and martyrdom" to confront what it called the Egyptian provocations.

In Egypt, a front-page editorial Saturday in Al Akhbar, a leading government-owned newspaper, said the assassination attempt justified "a strong military strike to overthrow the corrupt terrorist regime in Khartoum."

Sudan takes Egypt to U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

The remaining police from the station fled to Halaib town, "which is currently under siege by Egyptian military forces."

The Egyptian army also rounded up 30 policemen and after disarming them forced them to move from their observation posts to Abu Ramad, further south in the border zone.

It made no mention of a third reported fatality, a soldier killed on Wednesday in another incident. Egypt has confirmed the deaths of the policemen but not the soldier, and claims the Sudanese fired first.

Sudan underlined in the complaint that Halaib, which is controlled militarily by Egypt but claimed by both nations, "is Sudanese

territory because its population is Sudanese."

It called on the United Nations to urge Egypt to withdraw its military and administrative personnel from the zone and start negotiations to end the long-running dispute over the land.

Ethiopia said meanwhile its security forces shot dead three gunmen on the run since they failed attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

State-run Ethiopian television said the shoot-out, in which two Ethiopian security men were wounded, took place in an Addis Ababa suburb. All three of the dead, suspected of mounting the failed attack on Mr. Mubarak on Monday, were of Arab origin, the television added.

Enough is enough — King

(Continued from page 1)

we, Jordanians and Israelis, are looking after it without the presence of U.N. observers or peacekeeping missions.

"It has recovered to Jordan its lands that were under occupation. (It has also restored) our rights in terms of water in the context of Jordan and Israel, and much has been done in that direction. Many of the barriers have disappeared, and people move between the two countries, and I believe that in time, what will be achieved is peace between people."

"We have a peace treaty, but now we are in the process of peacebuilding. So sometimes I feel that maybe it is a fact that we are moving too slowly, in terms of all the years that we have lost in the past, to give our people the opportunity and the chance to live the kind of life that we never had. But, at the same time, I believe that we have covered enough ground to be proud of so far."

"Of course on the Palestinian-Israeli track we are fully supportive of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, and its leadership. We certainly do whatever we can through the opportunities presented now through peace between Jordan and Israel to help all concerned to move towards the establishment of peace."

"I hope that the Syrian track and thereafter the Lebanese track, which is connected to it, will also move soon and that what we have achieved will be a cornerstone in a comprehensive peace in this region."

The King expressed hope that the delays in arriving at an agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on expanding self-rule to the West Bank "will be temporary."

"If that ever happens we shall see the beginnings of the coming together of the followers of the three great monotheistic religions and we shall see also Jerusalem

becoming a symbol of peace between not only Palestinians and Israelis, but also Arabs and Israelis as well. This is something I have tried to put across as much as I could, and this, in my belief, is the best way to resolve it."

"But, in any event, I would not like to step on any one's toes, nor to speak of something that is outside my jurisdiction. At this stage there is an agreement between Israel and the PLO and the Palestinian people and their leadership to discuss Jerusalem last. I will do whatever I can to help in that process..."

The King expressed hope that the renewed negotiations between Syria and Israel would "lead to progress and the resolution of that dimension of the problem as well."

"I hope very very much indeed that the more direct contact between the two parties...the greater the opportunities will be to remove the barriers of fear and suspicion and eventually maybe to arrive at a solution. But essentially any problem between two parties has to be resolved between them although the world has a great interest, the U.S. in particular, and I hope they will continue to help..."

The King reiterated that any discussion of future relations between Jordan and Palestine should come only when "people are (under conditions) of freedom...democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights..."

"Then there is a chance for them to decide what kind of a relationship we should have," said the King.

Describing Jordanians and Palestinians as closest brethren, the King added that "these relations will always be very strong and very special, but anyone who suggests that there should be a certain plan or a certain formula at this stage will be probably causing more harm and damage to these relations between two peoples who

are so close together and who are almost members of the same family than anything else."

"The Palestinians ought to have their say...and we respect that and support it and therefore there is nothing we can say except to help them as much as we can with no other ulterior motive whatsoever."

The King said the immediate question was of Palestinians recovering their rights on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO. "I hope they will succeed in achieving that," he said.

Asked on suggestions that free elections could be a threat to some countries in the region which are not used to having democracy, the King said: "Certainly I do not view it as a threat. I view the absence of democracy as a threat. As long as people do not feel that they do not have rights in shaping their future and then there is more of a threat and I hope that what is in Jordan will be a positive example to many others in our region..."

On the crisis in Algeria, the King said: "I believe that what we see at times, which causes us great pain, is a reflection of a situation of despair of people. It has an effect definitely in terms of the economic dimension, whenever that is not addressed in terms of the needs of people, in terms of the quality of life of people. But there is much that is done under the cover of the so-called fundamentalism which has nothing to do with our religion or our faith nor our beliefs."

"I feel more and more compelled to do whatever I can to defend Islam in its true face, its true religion and true message. So much abuse has occurred of late. I believe what we are seeing is politicised religion, not true religion, not true faith in many cases... We hope that the answer will be greater democracy and

By Claudine Canetti

WHERE CAN one learn Arabic, Béche-de-mer, Bisayan, Dari, Hausa, Inuktitut, Lifu, Maandig, Moré, Najuat, Peul, Sorbian and Tigrinya, as well as Chinese, Russian, Kurdish, Estonian, Tahitian or Tibetan? The answer is at the "Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales" (INALCO) (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations), better known as "Langues O", which is a familiar abbreviation of its original name, the "Ecole des Langues Orientales" (School of Oriental Languages).

"Langues O", which is a breeding ground for diplomats, teachers, researchers, historians and business executives and where 81 languages are taught today, this year celebrates the bicentenary of its creation in 1795. In fact, the distant origins of this venerable establishment go back to the 17th century, in the reign of Louis XIV. At the time, there was interest in establishing relations between France and the countries of the Levant without going through local intermediaries. Hence Colbert created an "Ecole des Langues Orientales" for the purpose of training young French people as interpreters. During the Revolution, the Convention took up this idea and created the "Ecole Spéciale des Langues Orientales" "for the purpose of teaching living oriental languages acknowledged as being useful for politics and trade". A few months earlier, the same convention had created three other prestigious French schools, the "Ecole Polytechnique", the "Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers" and the "Ecole Normale Supérieure".

Originally, the mission of the "Ecole des Langues Orientales", which was set up in the Bibliothèque Nationale library, was to teach three "Muslim" languages — Ara-

bic, Turkish and Persian. The number of students and teaching posts grew so rapidly that the whole school shortly had to move to its historical headquarters in rue de Lille, on the edge of the Latin Quarter. The number of languages taught increased from about twenty in 1914 to nearly forty just after World War II and double that half a century later. Today, "Langues O", which, in 1971 became INALCO and is spread among five teaching centres in Paris and the near suburbs with more than 10,000 students, is a unique establishment in the world, receiving students from many different places and offering a tremendous diversity of courses (more than 1,500).

The missions which have been assigned to it are vast. First of all, it has to "provide initial and continuing training in the languages and civilisations of Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Oceania and the Amerindian peoples and in the geography, history, institutions and political, economic and social life of the countries concerned". We can note the particularly broad concept of "Oriental" — in fact, it simply means non-western languages and cultures.

The school also has "to develop research in these different areas, in particular in relation with other French and foreign research organisations; to contribute to knowledge of the countries concerned by spreading their scientific productions; and to foster university and cultural exchanges and cooperation between France and the countries in question."

But its functions are not limited to dispensing knowledge and culture and to being a means of entering the diplomatic corps. It has also set up professional training schemes by combining language teaching with more technical courses such as international trade, international relations and intercultural communication. It

also offers the possibility of advanced training in the sciences of language and automatic language processing accessible to non-specialists of oriental languages.

Research concerns all of the school's areas of teaching — languages, linguistics, literature, history, geography, contemporary civilisation, economics, history of art, sociology, ethnology and new information technologies. It is carried out in about twenty centres known as "geographical" when they deal with a particular area (for instance Balkan or Chinese studies), or "thematic" or "transversal" such as for comparative poetics or oral literature.

Courses in continuing education are also offered to meet the specific needs of firms or of private individuals.

On the score of international relations, which represent one of the school's main vocations, INALCO takes part in the various university exchange programmes of the European Union — Erasmus (for the development of student and teacher mobility in higher education establishments), Lingua (to improve knowledge of the languages used in the member countries of the Union) and Tempus (which aims to stimulate relations with Central and Eastern Europe). Moreover, it has signed 75 bilateral cooperation agreements with various university establishments all over the world.

The "Langues O" library has 430,000 books and 7,076 different periodicals in 70 languages, including a remarkable heritage of ancient works (incunabula, manuscripts, etc.).

Its famous students include the former president of the Council of State Edgar Faure (who studied Russian), the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan (Chinese), the director Antoine Vitez (Russian), the ethnologist and explorer Théodore Monod (literary Arabic), Prince Henri de Mont-

pezat, the husband of the Queen of Denmark (Vietnamese and Japanese) and a host of French ambassadors.

The languages taught belong to all the families which exist in the world — Indo-European, Caucasian, Altaic, Uralian, Sino-Tibetan, Thai, Afro-Asian,

Nilo-Saharan, Niger-Kordofan, Austroasiatic, Dravidian, Austronesian and Amerindian. Some of them, such as Chinese, are used by millions of people. Others, such as Judeo-Spanish, Judeo-Arabic or Romany are only spoken in scattered communities and can no longer be located on a map. Others

still, such as Onalou in the Pacific, are now only spoken by a handful of men.

The school's bicentenary celebrations include going down the Mekong, with stopovers in China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

L'Actualité en France.



Detail in one of the salons of the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations

Iranian cinema, like caviar, struggles on home front

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian cinema has won laurels abroad but is looking for a new identity at home as it struggles to overcome financial problems and free itself from government censorship, ideology and commercial trivia.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian film industry has gained remarkable success on the international scene, winning dozens of awards in film festivals.

A young Iranian director, Jafar Panahi, won the international critics' prize at the Cannes film festival last month for "The White Balloon."

Last year, directors Abbas Kiarostami and Ebrahim Mokhtari earned much acclaim for their movies "Under the Olive Tree" and "Zinat," with the former nominated for the Cannes festival's top prize, the Golden Palm.

But while artistic movies have earned international praise, they have a small audience of intellectuals at home and are rarely chosen for screening by the authorities.

"Our intellectual cinema is like Persian caviar. There's a strong taste for it abroad, but hardly any at home. It's a commodity only for export," veteran actor Manuchehr Sadeghpour said.

Political and religious hardliners in Iran are often distrustful of art movies because they lack pro-government and pro-religion propaganda. Such productions often face political obstacles, including arbitrary censorship.

The government maintains a close watch over the industry, from script writing to production to distribution as well as in the screening of movies at the country's 400 theatres.

Last week, 214 filmmakers and actors published an open letter criticising gov-

ernment "interference" in the movie industry and calling on the authorities to ease restrictions.

In a separate move in April, another group of independent film-makers urged the government to stop meddling in the process of film-making or risk losing private investors.

"Our cinema must choose between art, commerce and the government," a critically-acclaimed movie director told AFP.

Besides from politics, the industry has also been hampered by financial problems.

After subsidising movie production during the first decade after the revolution, the cash-strapped government in 1992 stopped allocating funds for the industry apart from the occasional war and historical movie.

The absence of funding has led to a sharp drop in overall productions with only 40 movies expected to be made this year compared to 70 in 1994.

An increase of up to 400 per cent in costs has also contributed to the fall in production — especially of art movies which have been the hardest hit for their failure to attract large audiences and investors.

The director of the guild of theatre owners, Mohammad Khorram, argued that movies made in Iran "these days are of an inferior quality" compared to the past and that the industry was threatened with "bankruptcy."

Even war and ideological movies with strong political and religious themes have been facing difficulties because of reduced government support and a fall in ticket sales.

But commercial movies and crowd-pleasers have less of a problem since they avoid taboo or controversial subjects and strictly follow guidelines set by the political and religious authorities.

greater freedom and greater respect for human rights so that people will create the answer in the face of extremism everywhere.

"Fundamentalism as it is called is not confined to the Muslim World. It is something that we have seen in different parts of the world. Let us hope that a dialogue between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions could help in putting an end to this..."

Asked whether there was fundamentalism in Jordan, the King replied, "not to any troubling point."

"We have a dialogue," he added. "I believe that the overwhelming majority of the people are the guarantee that (there will be no) extremism in the future."

In reply to another question on economic development, the King said Jordan had seen some concrete results and "we have been promised more."

He pointed out that Amman would be hosting the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in October.

Jordan hopes to present "the world and those who wish to join us the

Teenager shot dead in Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

troops later cleared the road and 20 settlers were detained, the radio said.

In Gaza City, the militant group Hamas charged Saturday that Palestinian police interrogators shaved off the hair and beards of three of its jailed leaders in an attempt to humiliate them.

The chief prosecutor, Khaled Kidra, denied the allegations, saying he saw the three men in jail Friday with hair and beards intact.

Hamas leaders Mahmoud Zahar, Ahmad Bahar and Salama Safadi were detained earlier this week after a Hamas activist blew himself up in a failed attack on Israeli troops in Gaza.

"(They) have been tortured and insulted. Their hair has been shaved off and their beards plucked out," Hamas said in a leaflet distributed in Gaza on Saturday.

The leaflet warned that the group would retaliate for this "ugly crime" and urged police to release the detainees.

"The bullets of our fighters will not hesitate to punish collaborators, irrespective of their identity or their ranks," the leaflet said.

"If the authorities do not free our sheikhs soon, the angry masses will not hesitate to storm the jails and free the detainees by force."

A Hamas activist said police sources informed the group that Dr. Zahar's hair and beard were shaved off three days ago to humiliate the leader.

"Shaving beards is a crime. It's more humiliating than beatings," said the Hamas activist, who works at the group's newspaper, Al Watan. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 667171

Economy

Development bank to be formed in Gaza Strip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have got together to launch the second Palestinian commercial bank to be formed in autonomous Gaza Strip, bank officials said Saturday.

They said the Jerusalem Development and Investment Bank, which will have an authorised capital of \$20 million, is expected to be operational by November.

The bank, which has been licensed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), has already formed its board of directors headed by Nizar Jandaneh, who also heads the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank in Amman.

Other members on the board are Mohammad Murad, vice-chairman, and Adel Hijawi, Mohammad Kamhawi, Nabil Barakat, Ibrahim Abdul Hadi, Nabil Sarraf, Raouf Abu Jabir, Walid Al Hamad and Omar Al Alami.

Some of the directors are Jordanian businessmen while others hail from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It will be the second Palestinian bank to be licensed by the PNA, the bank officials noted. The first was the Palestinian Development Bank.

The officials said the Jerusalem Bank for Development and Investment, which is the first to place shares for public subscription in the Palest-

nian territories, will be based in the Gaza Strip and will seek to branch out throughout the West Bank.

"We have reached an advanced stage of preparations and we hope to be operational by early November," said an official of the bank.

"We have only called in 25 per cent of the authorised capital and we intend to call the rest after we start operations and assess the situation," the official told the Jordan Times.

"We will operate like any other bank, but there is a close focus on developing the Palestinian economy," said the official.

"We are interested in developing tourism, agriculture, industry, housing and trade," he said. "We also hope to play a major role in developing the infrastructure of the Palestinian expatriates."

The Jerusalem Development and Investment Bank will also contribute to efforts to set up a Palestinian stock market and offer "highly technical and specialised banking services including project studies," said the official.

Another key service the bank intends to offer is to act as managers for stock issues by Palestinian companies.

"One of our distinctions is that we intend to reinvest all the capital in the Palestinian territories and we will be the first to do so there," said the bank official.

Iran oil minister says oil earnings increase

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's hard currency oil export earnings are currently above the level forecast in the state budget, oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh has told the official IRNA news agency.

Mr. Aghazadeh said the price of Iranian crude oil had averaged \$17.00 a barrel, earning Iran \$500 million more than forecast in the current Iranian budget which began on March 21.

The budget for the Iranian year 1374 was based on an oil price of \$15.00 a barrel which would generate \$13.5 billion in oil revenue.

IRNA also quoted the minister as saying the most important achievements of last week's OPEC meeting in Vienna was the preservation of the oil group's 1995 production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day (bpd).

This provided the chance for finding alternative customers for Iran's oil, IRNA quoted Mr. Aghazadeh as saying.

U.S. oil companies are

now banned from buying Iranian crude after an executive order from U.S. president Bill Clinton which barred trade and investment between the two countries.

American oil firms were major purchasers of Iranian crude in the lead up to Mr. Clinton's trade ban and accounted for roughly a quarter of Iran's total crude exports of 2.6 million bpd.

Iranian oil officials have stressed that the embargo will not hamper their oil marketing policy but western oil traders expect that the state National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) will come under pressure to cut its prices to find new customers.

Iran's green-back oil earnings have also been undermined by the weakness of the dollar in foreign exchange markets.

Mr. Aghazadeh said OPEC's secretariat is to carry out some studies to compensate for the depreciation of the dollar.

Saudi budget deficit may persist despite higher oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia could suffer from another budget deficit this year as oil prices might reverse an upward trend in the second half due to a sharp drop in seasonal demand, experts have said.

Prices have climbed by more than 15 per cent this year to reach nearly \$2 above the average price of around \$15.53 in 1994 due to high demand in the first quarter and OPEC's relative compliance with quotas.

But they could go down again as crude demand in the third quarter is projected to decline by nearly 700,000 barrels per day (b/d) below OPEC's official production ceiling of 24.52 million b/d, according to the group.

"OPEC is already producing above its ceiling and the decline in seasonal demand will combine with output increases by independent producers to put pressure on oil prices again," a Saudi-based economist told AFP.

"Despite the gains in the first half, I think the market is still uncertain and prices could weaken at any time. Such gains would be offset by the price decline and this will maintain or even widen the Saudi deficit," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, has assumed a minimum oil price of \$14 to \$15 a barrel for its 1995 budget.

As it apparently did not anticipate any major price rise, it trimmed its expendi-

ture by around 6.2 per cent to 150 billion riyals (\$40 billion) from 160 billion riyals (\$42.6 billion) in 1994.

This slashed the projected deficit to around \$4 billion from \$10.6 billion pushing it down to nearly 3.3 per cent of the projected gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995 from 8.8 per cent in 1994.

Crude oil sales provide the bulk of the kingdom's national income and the rest comes from the export of petroleum products and non-oil items as well as the recently introduced hikes on water, electricity and telephone rates.

According to the Saudi National Commercial Bank, earnings from the sale of petroleum products are projected to reach \$2.13 billion in 1995, boosting the total oil exports to \$24.8 billion.

The remaining revenue would come from taxes and non-oil exports.

"The Saudi budget deficit could be sharply lower or even disappear this year only if oil prices maintained their current level and the government does not increase actual spending," a Saudi banker said.

"The kingdom earned higher than it had projected in the first half but the question is: What trend the prices will take in the second half?" he asked.

The oil ministers of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), decided to

keep the output ceiling until the end of 1995, leaving quotas untouched.

This is because a projected increase in world demand for 1995 of nearly one million b/d had been met by Britain, Norway and other non-OPEC producers.

But the ministers had also tried to tackle the problem of slight quota violations by some members as this could affect the market when world demand slackens in the summer.

Independent estimates showed such violations boosted OPEC's actual production by the nearly 500,000 b/d in May.

"Barring unexpected developments, 1995 is unlikely to be worse than last year,

when oil prices dipped to their lowest level in five years. This means that if the Saudi budget deficit maintained its projected level, it remains low compared with previous years," a Saudi economist said.

Saudi Arabia, which produces around eight million b/d and controls more than a quarter of the world's crude, began suffering from a deficit in its budget and balance of payments in the mid-1980s, when prices were receding.

The budget shortfall hit a record \$33.6 billion in 1991, due to Riyadh's large cash contributions to a U.S.-led multinational coalition which ejected Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait.

The budget deficit was projected to start next week, according to a report in June, agreed to by the Saudi government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Part of the aim is to combat the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa by aiding the development of those countries where it is significant.

This approach will be consolidated at a Euro-Mediterranean conference to be staged in Barcelona in November, which will bring together leaders of 27 states.

Spain also intends to strengthen links with Latin America with a view to fostering democracy and open economies, and boosting trade links with the Mercosur economic grouping of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

For EU residents, Madrid intends to strengthen the internal "borderless" security zone with a European police agency and develop the idea of European citizenship, while 15 meetings are planned during Spain's tenure of the group preparing the way for the 1996 intergovernmental conference which will decide where Europe goes next.

Kuwait limits building, food subsidies

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has decided to limit subsidies on house-building materials and basic foods as part of a drive to cut its soaring budget deficit.

A trade and industry ministry official said the government has set a 30 per cent ceiling on subsidies of cement and steel used in house building and will set a 30 per cent cap on subsidies of basic foods from July 1.

The effect of the limits will be to freeze the total cost of both groups of the subsidies at around 12 million dinars (\$40 million), the official said in brief remarks to Reuters.

The cost of the subsidies, many of which had been running at around 50 per cent, has risen to 12 million dinars from around four million (\$13 million) a decade ago, he said.

The measures are part of an attempt by government to reduce costs to help bridge a budget deficit running at around 1.5 billion dinars (\$5 billion) or a fifth of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product.

Newspapers said the effect of the change was to raise the cost of subsidised steel to 75 dinars (\$250) a tonne from 58 dinars (\$193).

The building subsidy is applied to steel and cement used by Kuwaitis building their homes. There is a limit on the amount of subsidised material they may obtain but Kuwaitis say the permitted amount is enough to build a small home.

The official said the new ceiling for subsidies on basic foods such as rice and milk would also be set at 30 per cent. Only Kuwaitis may buy subsidised basic foods.

U.S. determined to broker free trade zone in 10 years

DENVER, Colorado (AFP) — The United States has renewed a pledge to negotiate within 10 years a huge pan-American free trade zone, stretching from Alaska to Argentina and grouping more than 700 million consumers.

Mickey Kantor, U.S. trade representative, said the objective of the meeting, attended by most finance ministers in the western hemisphere, was to jump start the programmes needed to bring about the "ambitious" goal of breaking down trade barriers among nations in the region.

The idea of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was first conceived at December's Summit of the Americas in Miami, though no timetable was set during that historic meeting.

Because of a serious economic crisis that has struck

Mexico since then, many delegation members stressed that a new push for the mammoth free trade would give Latin America a badly needed boost in morale.

In a final declaration, the 34 ministers promised the aims of the Americas trade zone would be compatible with World Trade Organisation terms and would not seek to erect trade barriers to any other countries.

The declaration said the countries agreed to set up seven working groups focusing on issues including market access, investments and subsidies and which would report regularly to deputy trade ministers of the 34 states.

The groups would outline concrete steps to take towards setting up the free trade zone of the Americas and further plans would be discussed at the next ministerial meeting scheduled for March 1996 in Colombia.

Mr. Kantor stressed the importance of involving the private sector in the negotiations, a fact underscored by a meeting of business executives in Denver at the conclusion of the conference of finance ministers.

Speaking before a group of American, Brazilian and Argentine businessmen, Mr. Kantor said the zone could not succeed without private industry, which he called the engine of growth in the western hemisphere.

Economic figures show how trade liberalisation in Latin America these last few years has proved a boom to the U.S. economy.

American exports in this zone went from \$30 billion in the mid-1980s to more than \$92 billion in 1994 — the equivalent of the export total to Western Europe.

more basic economic hurdles like road transport and energy supplies.

But despite the vague language and lack of concrete action diplomats say the summit achieved its aim of at least keeping many countries often in conflict talking to each other.

Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel said the organisation had a long way to go but offered a start.

"The (BSEC) organisation is only three years old. If you consider that the European Union is 37 years old and there are still problems ... I'm very happy with the conference," Mr. Demirel told Reuters television in an interview.

He denied that Turkey, which hosted the founding summit three years ago, wanted to control the grouping.

"If we say that we (Tur-

key) are the locomotive, the other people will be the cars, and it won't work," he said.

Black Sea members include Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Georgia, Moldova, Bulgaria, Greece, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Albania. The EU, Austria, Italy and Poland are among observers.

Regional disputes inevitably surfaced.

Azeri President Heydar Aliyev raised the status of talks over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region with Armenia.

Albanian Deputy Prime Minister Dylber Vroni raised the plight of ethnic Albanians in the neighbouring rump Yugoslavia.

Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev also brought up the war in the former Yugoslavia, saying sanctions were "catastrophic."

Spain to advance ties with Mideast during EU presidency

MADRID (AFP) — Spain took over the rotating six-month presidency of the European Union Saturday with an ambitious agenda of projects for the 15-member community, following the disappointing French stint.

But just as domestic considerations, including a presidential election, cramped France's style, Spain is affected by political scandals affecting the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Madrid's priorities for the EU for the rest of this year include economic revival to create new jobs and ease the passage to a single European currency planned for 1999.

tax harmonisation, freer trade and more transparency in the financial markets.

On foreign policy Spain hopes to develop a strategy for bringing about EU membership of countries in eastern and central Europe, while involving non-EU states in the Mediterranean basin more closely.

This will include negotiating new agreements on European relations with Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Morocco,

setting up the controversial customs union with Turkey and strengthening ties with Malta and Cyprus, other candidates for EU membership.

Part of the aim is to combat the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa by aiding the development of those countries where it is significant.

This approach will be consolidated at a Euro-Mediterranean conference to be staged in Barcelona in November, which will bring together leaders of 27 states.

Spain also intends to strengthen links with Latin America with a view to fostering democracy and open economies, and boosting trade links with the Mercosur economic grouping of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

For EU residents, Madrid intends to strengthen the internal "borderless" security zone with a European police agency and develop the idea of European citizenship, while 15 meetings are planned during Spain's tenure of the group preparing the way for the 1996 intergovernmental conference which will decide where Europe goes next.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you want support for a new interest, see your friends early today if you can and allow for any possible delays.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A worldly affair can be handled well this morning, but later today a disgruntled partner can pose a problem, if you permit.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take time for meditation this morning, then forget old chores about the house and tonight you make fine new contact.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will please your closest be this morning, and later today steer clear of expensive entertainment.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Being with individuals who awaken your mentality is wise this morning, but later avoid a tense condition at home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find better ways of getting chores completed early today, then be off to visit older individuals you like.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Early today plan the evening's fun and then don't involve yourself in monetary matters so that the afternoon can be enjoyable.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your best bet is to stay at home with your family. Show that you are clever and devoted as well. Avoid driving, if possible.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Forget worries and concentrate on whatever is of a constructive nature and make fine plans for the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you steer clear of a bigwig who has prejudices, you can easily see how to become more successful today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can have fine ideas coursing through your mind so make the most of them, and forget that outsider who is busy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Meditate and be more in tune with the truth. Be content at home this evening and have a delightful time with your loved one.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whittam

ACROSS

1. Month's feast
2. Musical genre
3. Author of "Hansel"
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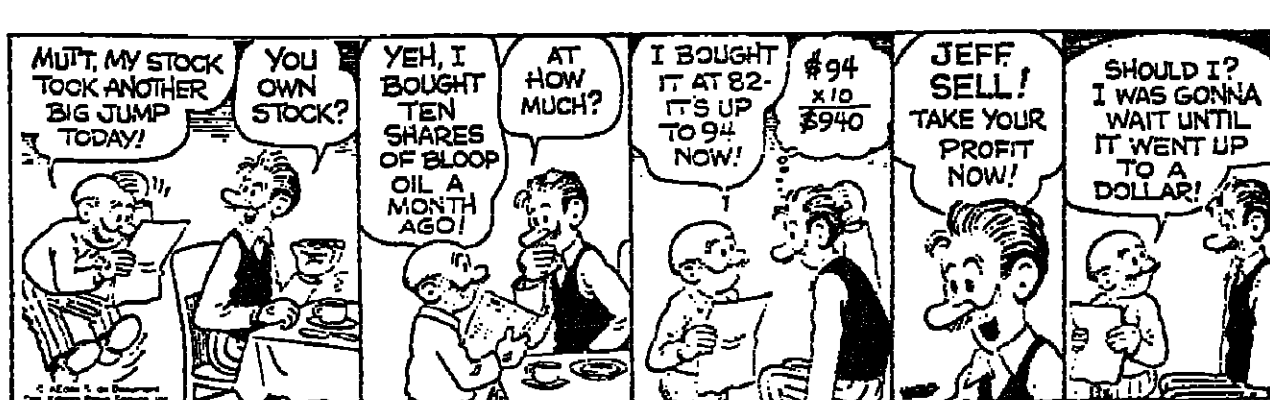
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOPLY

YANON

TUCSOC

RUGLAF

Answer here: _____

Solution: SQUAB VIKEN BUTANE BEACON

Answer: Often dug up when the garden needs tending — AN EXCUSE

Business Daily Beat

Dabbas: Government to study salary hikes

The government is expected to start considering civil servants' salaries next week in implementation of pledges it undertook in June 1994 when it agreed to reconsider these salaries at the beginning of July every year. Chairman of the financial committee at the Lower House of Parliament Hashem Al Dabbas said the committee had sent a memorandum to the government asking it to honour pledges it made during the House's debate of the 1995 fiscal budget draft law, including a promise to study the prospect of increasing civil servants' salaries. The Finance Committee, Mr. Dabbas said, will start following up the issue soon to ensure that the government grants its employees pay raises in accordance with a sound financial equation that takes into consideration the multi-economic indicators, including the rise in living expenses.

Meanwhile, government sources have linked any pay rises to the House's approval of increasing the sales tax from seven per cent to 10 per cent. The government cannot give pay raises and shoulder additional financial burdens without having other revenues that would enable it to cover these raises in case they were approved, the sources said. The last pay raise received by civil servants, who number about 437,000, was in June 1994. At the time, the Ministry of Finance estimated that the pay raise would cost it JD 58-59 million annually (Al Aswaj).

** Land prices in the Jordan Valley rose between 10 and 20 times as a result of the Middle East peace process, President of the Jordanian Real Estate Investors Society Mohammad Khair Al Kilani said. Mr. Kilani said the price of a dunum of land in the Jordan Valley rose to JD 10,000, up from JD 50-100. He said the possibility of annulling laws banning real estate sale to Israelis has caused rises in land prices in most of the Kingdom's areas. Also the establishment of tourism projects, such as hotels, led to upsurges in land prices, especially in the Sports City and Medina streets in Amman, said Mr. Kilani, who added that the real estate market is governed by rumours -- "much the same as the Amman Financial Market." He said the real estate market this summer will not be as "hot" as expected, noting that the market is suffering of recession which caused investors in the market to drop their expected profits from 15-20 per cent to around 10 per cent (Al Aswaj).

** A total of 50 industrial projects with a capital of JD 4,349,000 were registered last month with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. A study prepared by the ministry's Industrial Development Department said 31 of these projects are based in Amman, six in Balqa, four in Mafrqa, three in each of Karak and Zarqa and one project in each of Madaba and Irbid (Al Ra'i).

Gulf oil income surges in first half of 1995

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An improvement in oil prices due to unusual discipline by OPEC boosted the earnings of Gulf Arab states by almost 6 billion in the first half of 1995, bankers said on Saturday.

Oil prices could end the year with the same average as the first half due to an expected recovery in demand in the last quarter and this would help the coffers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). "Oil prices could weaken in the third quarter due to lower seasonal demand but they will likely recover in the last quarter due to a surge in demand. This means the price gains could be maintained," one banker said. Oil prices averaged around 17 dollars in the first half of 1995 compared with 14.5 dollars in the first half of 1994. With the GCC's production remaining almost unchanged, at nearly 13 million barrels per day (bpd), the price rise of 2.5 dollars means an extra revenue of around 5.9 billion dollars in the first half of 1995.

If oil prices stay at their current level through the year, then revenues could exceed \$80 billion compared with around \$70 billion in 1994, when prices averaged nearly \$15.5.

The 17-dollar average will be the highest since crude price reached 18.33 dollars in 1992 and topped 19 dollars in 1991 due to the Gulf war. The improvement in oil prices this year was attributed to higher world demand, complaints by most OPEC members with their output quotas and Iraq's refusal to accept United Nations terms to return to the oil market. The situation is in contrast with the first quarter of 1994, when prices plunged to \$13 due to overproduction, a surge in global stockpiles and growing speculation about Iraq's resumption of crude exports. GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produced nearly 13.2 million bpd in the first half and they depend heavily on oil exports to finance their budget. The deterioration of crude price over the past decade has badly hurt their once flush coffers and turned large surpluses in their budgets into chronic deficits.

The six members have projected earnings at around \$59 billion for 1995 but the figure does not include individual incomes in the UAE, which groups Abu Dhabi with Dubai and five other sheikhdoms.

While federal earnings were projected at \$4.6 billion, the UAE's total oil income is expected to reach around \$13.6 billion in 1995 at an average price of \$17 and OPEC-decreed production of 2.16 million bpd. "Oil prices will likely be lower in the third quarter as demand will go down by more than 700,000 bpd. But I think they will rebound as demand will largely recover in the fourth quarter due to a surge in consumption in the northern hemisphere," an oil expert said. Experts said Gulf revenues could have sharply risen if oil producers outside the 12-nation organisation of petroleum exporting countries — mostly North Sea producers Britain and Norway — had not raised output to face a growth in global demand of around 1.2 million bpd in 1995.

Such an increase has forced OPEC to maintain its official output ceiling of 24.52 million bpd until the end of 1995, keeping the level unchanged since September 1993 and depressing OPEC's market share.

But the cartel ministers have voiced optimism prices will remain stable until the end of the year as OPEC members are producing near demand, which is projected at around 24.9 million bpd in 1995. Bankers said that if oil prices maintained their current level this year, the GCC's income would rise to its highest level since mid 1980s. "Oil prices were higher in 1992 and 1991 but Kuwait's production was negligible due to the damage to its energy sector during the Iraqi occupation," a Gulf oil executive said.

Arab stockbrokers to hold first meeting in Beirut

ABU DHABI (AFP) — More than 100 stockbrokers and officials from Arab financial markets are to meet in Beirut this week to discuss development of their stock exchanges.

The Arab Bourses' Union (ABU) is sponsoring the July 5-7 meeting, expected to draw 71 stockbrokers and 31 market officials from 10 Arab states, stockbroker Zuhair Khaswani said here Friday.

The ABU secretary general, Saafak Al Rukaibi, said it was the first meeting of its kind in the Arab World and it coincides with economic reforms in several regional countries.

"The meeting is important given the growing role of the Arab stock markets, which are expected to finance development projects in the region in the light of new economic policies."

"Such policies are giving priority to the private sector and encouraging the creation of more official stock markets," he said.

He said the conference would cover cooperation among stockbrokers, obstacles facing them, develop-

ment of brokerage services, the role of markets in reforms and possible creation of a brokers' association.

The meeting will bring together stockbroker and financial officials from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon, as well as the United Arab Emirates.

More than 1,100 banks and companies are listed in Arab stock markets but only 10 regional states have formal stock exchanges.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has sought to encourage the remaining Arab League members to set up floors as part of its new policies to push for reforms to repair regional economies.

Most Arab economies are hit by debt, unemployment, inflation, and budget and balance of payment deficits.

The AMF, the main financial institution in the region, has set up a data base to link stock markets in member states. Officials said six bourses had been linked to the base while other markets are expected to follow suit.

Moroccan leader to hold fish talks in Brussels

BRUSSELS (R) — Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali will hold talks in Brussels on Thursday to try and end the impasse over a new EU-Morocco fisheries agreement, a European Commission spokesman said on Friday.

Mr. Filali is expected to put forward fresh proposals during meetings with European Commission President Jacques Santer and Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino.

"It's not a proper negotiation but it's good news he's coming because it means he has something fresh to say,"

the spokesman said, adding the EU hoped it would be possible to fix a date for a sixth and final round of negotiations.

The EU and Morocco have been at loggerheads over Moroccan demands for sharp cuts in quotas and increased landings of catches in Moroccan ports.

Fishermen in the Spanish port of Algeciras listed an eight-week blockade of Moroccan imports on Thursday, saying they hoped the move would lead Rabat to curb its demands for sharp cuts in EU fishing quotas.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SJIKISANI				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/07/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	350	79520	222.000	221.000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	7250	18560	2.550	2.550
THE HOUSING BANK	5950	48475	8.010	8.200
JORDAN KAWAT BANK	1765	4943	2.830	2.810
JORDAN GULF BANK	6275	8149	1.320	1.290
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3516	13255	3.810	3.770
BUSINESS BANK	250	998	3.990	3.990
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	5044	21689	4.350	4.300
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42367	48853	1.160	1.130
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	16600	28225	1.730	1.690
BANKS SECTOR	89389	272729	INDEX NUMBER: 182.75	CHANGE: -0.32
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	55000	192500	3.380	3.500
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	500	960	1.900	1.920
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	250	1050	4.200	4.200
JERUSALEM INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	8200	25420	3.100	3.100
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	950	2470	2.600	2.600
THE NATIONAL ARABIA INSURANCE	1794	5562	3.050	3.100
AL-HISAR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	200	874	4.600	4.370
INSURANCE SECTOR	66894	228836	INDEX NUMBER: 135.12	CHANGE: -0.28
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	20572	34996	1.730	1.700
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	150	192	1.350	1.280
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	6650	40089	6.030	6.030
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1750	4900	2.820	2.800
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	7750	9013	1.180	1.180
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	2000	2360	1.180	1.180
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITY HOTELS	1131	2517	2.270	2.210
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1450	4758	3.390	3.300
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	10000	12500	1.280	1.250
SERVICES SECTOR	47453	111384	INDEX NUMBER: 132.19	CHANGE: -1.15
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3936	15000	3.850	3.810
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3450	10626	3.150	3.070
THE ARAB POTASH	150	770	5.210	5.150
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	220	2292	10.500	10.420
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	487	1569	3.200	3.200
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3020	15467	5.190	5.130
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	100	264	2.640	2.640
THE PUBLIC MIXING	450	1463	3.200	3.250
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	500	4038	8.100	8.050
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	6750	5043	750	750
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	2150	12603	5.950	5.900
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	59100	28969	500	490
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2250	3155	1.410	1.410
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	100	385	3.960	3.850
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	300	192	640	640
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	10600	34662	3.290	3.270
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	7500	16226	2.180	2.170
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3350	6351	1.910	1.900
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	104574	159832	INDEX NUMBER: 132.92	CHANGE: -1.03
GRAND TOTAL	308310	772780	INDEX NUMBER: 157.90	CHANGE: -0.61
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		135081		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		183632		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 29/6/95	Tokyo Close 30/6/95
Sterling Pound	1.5990	1.5950
Deutsche Mark	1.5795	1.5815
Swiss Franc	1.7466	1.7485
French Franc	4.8405	4.8415
Japanese Yen	84.44	84.65
European Currency Unit	1.3358	1.3355

USD vs STD
* European Opening at 9:00 a.m. GMT

Inter-currency Interest Rates Date: 30/6/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.75	5.62	5.56
Sterling Pound	6.43	6.68	6.81	7.25
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.31	4.31	4.43
Swiss Franc	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.12
French Franc	6.98	6.85	6.65	6.51
Japanese Yen	1.06	1.00	0.92	0.87
European Currency Unit	6.12	6.12	6.21	6.34

Interest 364 days for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	384.75	7.60	Silver	5.05	0.120

* 21 Karat

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1026	1.1081
Deutsche Mark	0.5007	0.5032
Swiss Franc	0.6019	0.6049
French Franc	0.1628	0.1635
Japanese Yen	0.8166	0.8207
Dutch Guilder	0.4467	0.4489
Swedish Krona	0.0424	0.0426
Italian Lira	0.0424	0.0426
Belgian Franc	0.0424	0.0426

For 100

Other Currencies Date: 1/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320
Lebanese Lira	0.041935	0.043000
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1859
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3650
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1902
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7880	1.7970
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1890
Greek Drachma	0.2765	0.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.4875	1.5715

For 100



Yugoslavia's Vlade Divac (up) tries to stop an unidentified opponent during their European Basketball Championship match (AFP photo)

Yugoslavia crush France to reach semifinals

ATHENS (AP) — Paced by their NBA stars, Lithuania, Croatia and Yugoslavia joined host Greece in the semifinals of the European Championship Friday and clinched berths at next summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Toni Kukoc led Croatia over Italy, 71-61. Arvydas Sabonis powered Lithuania past Russia, 82-71, and Vlade Divac anchored Yugoslavia to a 104-86 victory over France.

Paragiotis Fassoulas and Fanis Christodoulou combined for 37 points and 20 rebounds to pace Greece over Spain, 66-64.

Kukoc, of the Chicago Bulls, had a game-high 24 points and 10 rebounds despite suffering a cut on his right hand as Croatia broke down Italy's stiff resistance in the second half.

The four slots from Europe for the games went to the four semifinalists here and Russia, silver medalists at the 1993 European Championship and the 1994 World Championship, now will miss the Olympics in Atlanta.

"It's a tragedy for Russian basketball," said Russian coach Sergei Belov.

Croatia and Lithuania will clash in the semifinals, while Yugoslavia takes on Greece, which it beat in the preliminary round.

Greece, the only team in the last four without NBA

players, is hoping to add to its 1987 title, when it also hosted the tournament.

The Greeks slowly rallied to overcome an early nine-point Spanish lead. Forward Christodoulou, who finished the game 5-for-7 from the 3-point range, hit three straight 3-pointers at one stretch late in the half.

Centre Fassoulas, who col-

lected his 4th foul with 7:30 left, returned to key a 10-point Greek run that decided the game. Christodoulou first sank a 3-pointer for a 54-51 lead. Fassoulas then scored the next two points, converted a three-point play and sank a hook shot to make it 61-51 with 3:10 left.

The Greeks, roared by a boisterous, capacity crowd of 20,000 at the Maroussi Olympic hall, held off Spain's final rally.

Fassoulas had 20 points. Christodoulou had 17, and each had 10 rebounds. Alberto Herreros scored 15 for Spain.

Croatia, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist behind the U.S. Dream Team, ran into unexpected trouble against a determined Italian team.

Kukoc suffered a cut between his third and fourth finger on the right hand early in the second half, went to

the locker to receive four stitches, and returned to hold his team together when Italy closed within one point, 48-47, seven minutes into the second half.

He grabbed a defensive rebound and scored on the next drive, then had a steal and a defensive rebound, feeding centre Stojan Vrankovic for a dunk that made it a

decisive 58-47 Croatian lead. "When Toni came back into the game, we won it," said Croatia's coach Aleksandar Petrovic.

"I think I hit someone's knee but I am not sure what happened. I didn't feel any pain during the game but it hurts a bit now. But there's no reason for me not to play," Kukoc said.

Yugoslavia, which missed the 1992 Olympics because of U.N. sanctions, is returning to a major tournament after an absence of nearly three years.

Teams from former Yugoslavia won five European titles. The current team consists of players from Serbia and Montenegro, the only two republics left in the country.

Yugoslavia led by as many as 24 points and the French only cut the margin when the Yugoslavs slowed down in the second half.

Syria's Al Jala' arrive today to play Kingdom's women's national basketball team

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syrian women's basketball champions Al Jala' Sunday arrive in Amman on a week-long visit to the Kingdom where they will play four matches against Jordan's national women's team.

The matches are intended to put the finishing touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball Championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan July 23-30.

Al Jala' lineup includes five players on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk club's powerful centre Eto Mardikian. Other national team players include Karin and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Abboushi.

Al Jala' have a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. They

beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazireh twice in Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homentmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Jordan's national team has been practising since January when the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) announced the regrouping of the women's team after a 12-year absence from the basketball scene.

The team is coached by Fadi Sabbah and includes: Rana Hussein, Tala Maoui, Jumana Sali, Hala Muheisen, Suhair Makusi, Andeera Qassab, Tetiana Qardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shaded, Zein Sha'sha'a, Rania Al Dajani, Jihan Abdulnour is also set to join the team on Monday after taking leave from her work in Beirut.



Syria's Al Jala'

Becker survives early scare to reach last 16

LONDON (R) — Three-times champion Boris Becker recovered from a shaky start to overcome Dutchman Jan Siemerink 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 and clinch a place in the last 16 of the men's singles at Wimbledon on Saturday.

The 27-year-old German, bidding to become only the second man in the tournament's 118-year history to win singles championships 10 years apart, finally proved too strong for the 25-year-old left-hander who broke the German's service twice in the opening set but was too often beaten by Becker's powerful and accurately hit ground strokes as the match progressed.

Becker, who first won this title as an unseeded 17-year-old in 1985, would match the record of American Bill Tilden, the only man to date to win titles 10 years apart in 1920 and 1930, if he won the

crown for a fourth time next week.

But in the early stages it looked as though the third seed would have his work cut out winning his way into the fourth round.

Siemerink broke Becker's service in the fourth and eighth games of the opening set which he won 6-2 in 42 minutes. The opening game took 14 minutes and included 12 deuces before the Dutchman won it on his ninth game point.

But Becker steadied himself after that poor start. He broke back immediately at the start of the second set before rushing into a 5-1 lead and did not lose another service game in the match.

Although he served only seven aces in the centre court sunshine, two of those came on second serves which left his opponent floundering as

the German rediscovered his touch in the later stages.

Becker broke Siemerink for a 5-4 lead in the fourth set and in the 10th game the Dutchman held his head in despair after misjudging a bounce which gave Becker match point.

The German duly wrapped up proceedings with a sliced volley at the net after a workmanlike, rather than spectacular two hours and 18 minutes.

American seeds Lindsay Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez lined up for a fourth-round clash in the women's singles.

Seventh seed Davenport beat German Christina Singer 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, while 13th seed Fernandez, her best friend on the circuit, brushed aside Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-2.

Davenport conceded it would be difficult playing

against Fernandez, beaten finalist at last year's French Open and a semifinalist in all the other Grand Slam events in recent years.

"It's definitely going to be weird because she is like a sister to me. One of us will reach the quarters and it's going to be me," she said.

Davenport, 19 and one of the giants of the women's tour at 1.89 metres, struggled with her serve against Singer in a first set in which she squandered four set points.

Two came at 5-4 and she had two more in the tie-break before the 26-year-old German, who played with one ankle in a brace and the other taped, took it 10-8 on her second set point.

But the bulky Davenport's greater strength took over at that point and Singer wilted under the pressure.

"I'm never going to be a

Steffi Graf or a Gabriela Sabatini," she said when asked about her size. "I may not be that quick either but once I get moving I've got a fair bit of speed and anticipation."

Her victory took her just under two hours. Fernandez, once ranked as high as fourth in the world, needed less than an hour to beat the hapless Oremans.

Two unseeded players reached the last 16. Marianne De Swardt of South Africa beat Yone Kamio of Japan 6-4, 6-4 and Australian Nicole Bradke defeated Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico 6-2, 6-4.

Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who beat 1993 Wimbledon runner-up Jim Courier in the second round, overcame German qualifier Patrick Baur 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

Big servers revel in Wimbledon heatwave

LONDON (AFP) — Goran Ivanisevic, Greg Rusedski and Todd Martin, three of the biggest servers in tennis, blasted their way into the last sixteen of the men's singles at Wimbledon on Friday.

With the continuing heatwave making the famous grass courts at the All England Club play faster and faster, all three made a mockery of the new less-pressurised balls which are being used at the Championships for the first time and which are supposed to slow down matches.

Ivanisevic, twice a finalist but determined to go one step further this year, served down another score of aces in his 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 centre-court defeat of Arnaud Boetsch leaving the Frenchman shell-shocked.

"It was just boom, boom, boom. Even on his second serves you can't see anything," said the 26-year-

old Boetsch after his humiliating 84 minute loss. "It was great to be on centre-court but I maybe hit just ten balls in the whole match. What can I say?"

The fourth-seeded Ivanisevic, who served 209 aces on his way to the 1992 final against Andre Agassi, admitted: "I always serve good on this court and this year the balls are flying with the heat. I'm not scared of playing anyone. But I'd rather hit just one ace rather than 209 aces, and win this tournament."

Ivanisevic now faces 14th seed Todd Martin, a semifinalist twelve months ago. Martin, a 6ft 6in (1m98) American, came back after trailing by two sets in one to beat compatriot Derrick Rostagno 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

There were scenes of jubilation on court one when Britain's Canadian-born player Greg Rusedski, repu-

ted to have the world's biggest serve, came storming back to put out Olivier Delatre of France — 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

Sampras, bidding for his third consecutive singles crown, recovered from a shaky start to beat fellow-American Jared Palmer 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

In other third-round matches, Japan's number-one player Shuzo Matsuoka clawed his way back to win a gruelling five-set marathon against last weekend's Nottingham champion Javier Frana of Argentina.

Frana, who complained several times about the behaviour and noise of a predominantly Japanese crowd packed around court thirteen — one of the outside show courts — crashed 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Matsuoka's next opponent will be American Michael Joyce who defeated Britain's

home-grown hope Chris Wilkinson 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

American baseline Aaron Krickstein had to go the full distance to outlast stubborn Spaniard Thomas Carbonell. He scored a 6-7 (2/7), 7-5, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 win and now faces Yevgeny Kafelnikov who defeated fellow-Russian Alexander Volkov in straight-sets.

Japanese hopes in the women's singles took a blow when 15th seed Naoko Sawamatsu who has twice reached the fourth round in five previous visits, was beaten in straight-sets in the third round by qualifier Petra Kamstra.

The 210th-ranked Dutch player scored a 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) win.

Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia surged back after a hesitant start to reach the fourth round for the fourth consecutive year by beating Shaun Bourne champion Nathalie

Tauziat of France. Tauziat, who put out fifth-seeded compatriot Mary Pierce in the previous round, went down 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 4-6.

Spain's top favourite, second-seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and defending champion Conchita Martinez, both took another step towards a probable semi-final showdown.

Sanchez-Vicario, playing possibly the best grass-court tennis of her career defeated 1990 finalist Zina Garrison-Jackson in straight-sets.

The 31-year-old American, who is appearing at the Championships for the last time, won only five games. Martinez, who had lost only five of 44 matches this season and who has been beaten only once — by Steffi Graf in the French Open semi-finals — in her last five tournaments, defeated Shaun Stafford of the United States 6-1, 6-1.

Navratilova returns for 23rd time

even though Pete Sampras remains favoured to win his third in a row.

According to bookmakers Ladbrokes, Sampras remains the 4-5 favourite but the odds on Agassi, who won the title in 1992 and has breezed through his two early matches without dropping a set, have shortened from 5-1 to 2-1.

Three-time titlist Boris Becker remains third favourite and his odds have not changed at 6-1, while Goran Ivanisevic, runner up in '92 and last year, started at 9-1 but now is 8-1.

Another big mover in the odds list is Petr Korda of the Czech republic. The left-hander, who was 500-1 before

the tournament started, is a 33-1 shot after beating fifth seed Michael Chang in straight sets in the second round Tuesday.

Five-time titlist Steffi Graf remains the 1-2 favourite to win the women's tournament with defending titlist Conchita Martinez second at 7-2.

Don't copy Andre: Andre Agassi would be touted as any court if he tried to play at any of the stuffy English clubs, according to tennis coach Alan Jones.

"It is not because of the way he plays, but what he wears," said Jones, long time coach of Britain's Jo Durie. "Andre Agassi, the most marketable and charismatic figure in the game, would not

be allowed to play at virtually any club in the land," Jones said in a criticism of the British attitude to the game.

"The kids want to put on the same clothes as him. But they would be kicked off court if they wore what he did when he won the Australian Open."

At several tournaments this year, Agassi wore black socks and shoes and patterned shorts. At Wimbledon, players are made to wear predominantly white and Agassi complies, even with a white bandana on his head.

"His all-white gear for Wimbledon is exceptional," Jones said. "How are we going to get our kids playing

in droves if they can't emulate their hero?"

"The archaic attitude of our clubs is a huge problem and unless they change their ways towards children, we are going to have problems. We simply aren't getting enough youngsters into the game. They could play the game nude as long as they wear the right shoes so they don't scuff up the court."

Signing off: Michael Chang, recent finalist at the French Open clocked in and out Wimbledon in double quick time when he was beaten in straight-sets in the second-round by Czech Petr Korda. But the fourth-seeded Chinese-American won an army of new fans after his morning practice session. He stayed behind on the Aorangi Park Court for a full 20 minutes until every autograph hunter had been satisfied.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH GIMAR SHARF & TARIAN HUSSEIN
1994 Jordan Bridge Series, Vol. 1

LEND A HELPING HAND

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 7
♥ K 10 9 4
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 8

WEST
♠ A R Q J 6 5
♥ A 10 2
♦ A
♣ 9 7 6

EAST
♠ 10 2
♥ J 8 8
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 10 9 7 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 4 3
♥ Q 7 6 3 2
♦ R 10 5
♣ A K 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 - 2 - 4 - Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠. Make life as easy as possible for partner. We've said that often, but cannot repeat it enough. That's the secret to winning defense.

West's jump to two spades was, by partnership agreement, intermediate, showing a good suit and the equivalent of an opening bid. Afraid that a bid of three hearts would sound competitive, North chose instead to jump to game, which ended the auction.

West cashed the king and ace of spades, then continued with the queen. East discarded a diamond, declarer ruffed and led a low trump. When West's ace appeared, South

claimed the rest of the tricks. The correct defense is easy to spot from the West seat. South surely must have the ace and king of clubs and king of diamonds to open the bidding, so the only hope of setting the contract lay in a trump promotion. To make that clear to partner, West should have led a low spade to the third trick.

As long as East takes care to ruff the trick with the right of hearts, the contract must go down to defeat. Declarer can overruff with the queen and lead a trump, but where is with the ace of hearts. West simply reverts to a spade and, whether declarer ruffs high or low in dummy, East must score the jack of hearts on partner's for the setting trick.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Sharon Stone, William Baldwin & Tom Berenger in Sliver Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA Bruce Willis ... in Colour Of Night Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Jim Carry ... in ACE VENTURA SHOWS: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Natural Born Killers Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 11	AMMOON THEATRE TEL:618274 - 618275 Mousa Hijazeen...in Hi Citizen (comedy play) at 8:30 p.m. play for the youth Between two sidewalks Daily at 5:00 p.m.	Naba Al Mashini Theatre TEL:675571 Today and Every Day Abu Al Khil and Najah...in KABARET The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.	Nabi & Hisham's TEL:625155 AHLAN THEATRE Shows will start July 3, 1995 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays Shows will feature the play Arab Summit and Peace and on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays Shows will feature the play (Ahlam Talbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel 625155 Amman
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NBA locks out players

NEW YORK (R) — The National Basketball Association, previously untainted by the labour woes that have blighted other team sports, began its first work stoppage at midnight on Friday when the owners locked out the players.

The lockout began when the "no-strike, no-lockout" agreement struck in October expired. Commissioner David Stern said on Friday that the owners had "no other option."

"Recent events left the owners no other option because the players repudiated a hard-fought agreement containing compromises and difficult choices by both sides," Stern said.

"It's a shame that the success we and our players have enjoyed as a result of working together is now in jeopardy."

The lockout coincides with expiration of the no-strike, no-lockout pledge made by both sides last October that allowed the 1994-95 season to be played without interruption. The last collective bargaining agreement expired exactly a year ago.

The owners last week unanimously approved an agreement worked out between the league and the Players' Association. But

player representatives postponed their votes on the deal and a small group of prominent players have taken steps to decertify the union and nullify the recent negotiations.

"The deal reached last week was the product of 18 months of hard-fought good faith bargaining," said NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik, a member of the negotiating team.

"If that deal is no longer acceptable to the players, then we are prepared to keep negotiating."

With no bargaining sessions scheduled for Friday, however, the NBA appears headed for the same type of labour problems that plagued baseball and hockey last year.

The NBA has prospered and avoided any serious labour strife since Stern became commissioner in 1984.

The lockout cancels payments to players for the 1995-96 season and terminates all benefits. It also prohibits negotiations and contract signings between teams and players.

All summer leagues, tryout and team-sponsored off-season games will be cancelled and team training facilities will be shut down, the league said.

Arabi, Faisali clash in Jordan Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Arabi Sunday take on the country's top soccer team, Al Faisali, in the final round of the 16th Jordan Cup — the second most important of the Kingdom's soccer competitions.

Al Faisali are aiming for a fourth consecutive and a record 9th Jordan Cup title, while Al Arabi have a modest record and were the winners in 1986.

Al Faisali eliminated Al Jazireh and Al Zarqa while Al Arabi upset newcomers Kufroum and Al Qozazi on their way to the final round.

The other teams in the final round are Al Hussein and Al Ramtha.

Al Hussein, who clinched their first major title when they won the 1994 Federation Shield, had an easy path to final round eliminating lowly Al Yarmouk and Sahab.

Al Ramtha also easily qualified, overcoming Al Baqaa and Thar-Ras. Al Ramtha were the Jordan Cup finalists in the last two years and the titleholders in 1990 and 1991.

Twenty-eight teams from the First Division and the Premier League entered the Jordan Cup. The most surprising result was Premier League champions Al Wihdat's elimination by Al Baqaa.

Schedule of Jordan Cup final round matches

Sun. 2/7 Faisali vs. Arabi
Mon. 3/7 Hussein vs. Ramtha
Thursday 6/7 Faisali vs. Hussein
Arabi vs. Ramtha
Sunday 9/7 Faisali vs. Ramtha
Arabi vs. Hussein

Jordan Cup record (Runners up in brackets)

1980	Faisali (Bagaa)
1981	Faisali (Ramtha)
1982	Wihdat (Albi)
1983	Faisali (Ramtha)
1984	Jazireh (Albi)
1985	Wihdat (Faisali)
1986	Arabi (Jazireh)
1987	Faisali (Hussein)
1988	Wihdat (Faisali)
1989	Faisali (Ramtha)
1990	Ramtha (Hussein)
1991	Ramtha (Wihdat)
1992	Faisali (Wihdat)
1993	Faisali (Ramtha)
1994	Faisali (Ramtha)

Hill wins pole for French Grand Prix

MAGNY COURS, France (AFP) — Damon Hill was celebrating a pole position start in the French Grand Prix on Saturday, but world champion Michael Schumacher was left with a tyre shortage which jeopardises his race on Sunday.

Hill, on provisional pole after Friday's first qualifying, saw the prized position change hands four times in the second session, before returning to the Williams Renault driver for good with a time of 1 min 17.225sec.

Schumacher, top of the current drivers' championship with a seven-point lead over Hill, was twice in pole position before finally being forced to settle for second fastest in 1:17.512.

But the German was clearly upset at events earlier in the weekend which are certain to slow him down on Sunday.

Over-zealous Goodyear technicians punctured two sets of Schumacher's tyres on Friday while taking tyre temperatures — reducing

him to five sets for the entire weekend.

"We've got big problems," said Schumacher. "We don't have enough tyres for the race — we can't run the old tyres because it would be a safety risk. My car would be unsafe if I had to use those other tyres. We all know what happens when a tyre explodes."

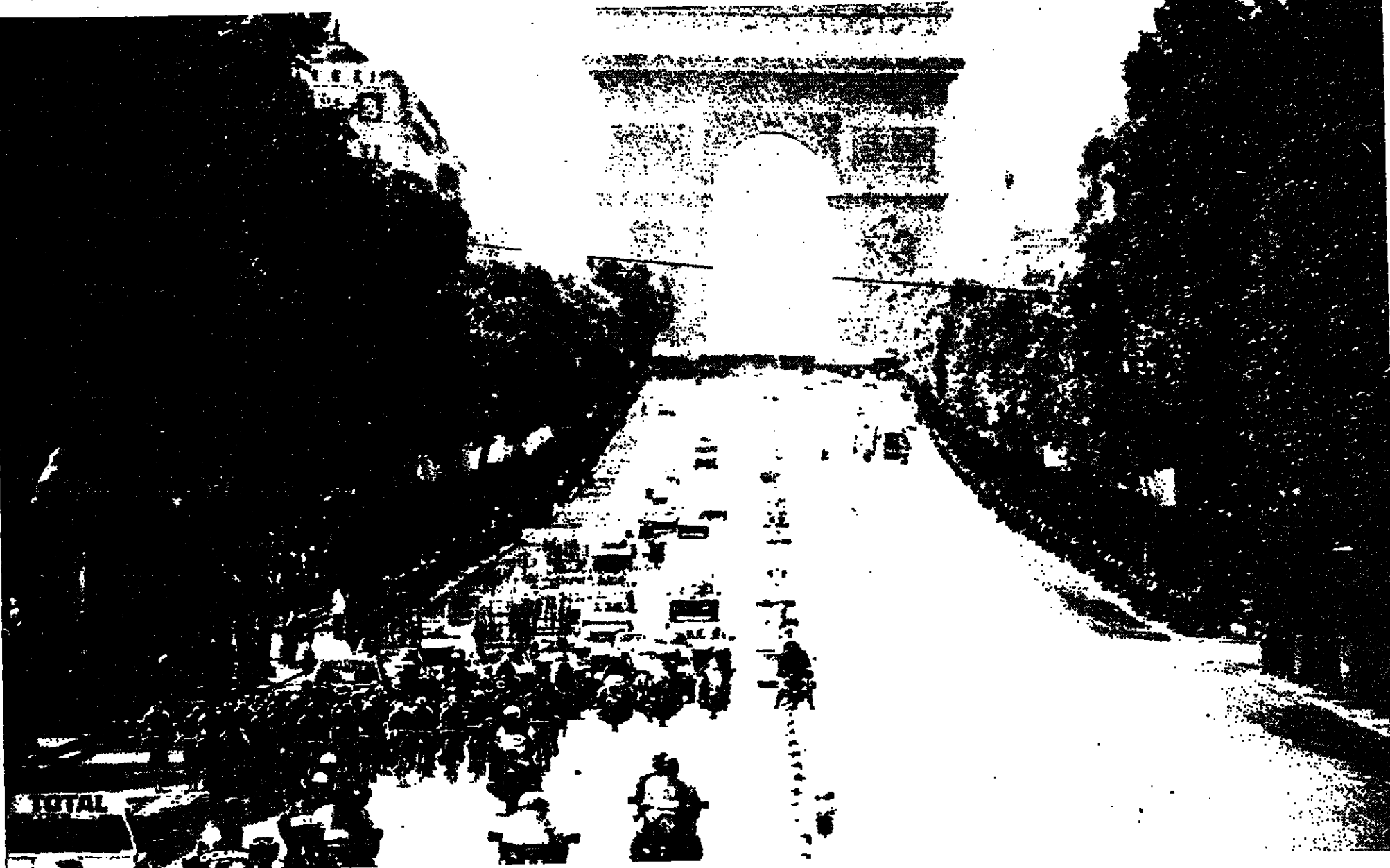
Benetton asked the ruling International Automobile Federation for permission to use an extra two sets — but the FIA refused to bend the rules.

Benetton were appealing that decision on Saturday, but a u-turn by officials here looked unlikely.

Schumacher said: "I'm sure that it's being discussed at the moment. But now is not the time to make a stupid comment."

Schumacher's press manager, Heiner Buchinger, later tried to play down the drama.

"We are negotiating at the moment," he told AFP, "but I don't think there's much chance that the FIA are going to change their mind."



Cyclists in the Tour de France — the world's major cycling competition on their last lap down the Champs-Élysées in Paris (File photo)

Indurain aims for history at Tour de France

SAINT-BRIEUC, France (AP) — Five in succession. It has never been done. Still, Miguel Indurain is favoured to rewrite the 92-year-old history of the Tour de France over the next three weeks.

Standing in the way of the supreme cyclist of the 1990s is Tony Rominger, an aging Swiss who is reaching peak form at 34, and local hero Laurent Jalabert, who has been transformed into an all-round star since he crashed out of last year's tour.

The prologue will give a first indication on who's hot and who's not, especially since it will be run on an undulating 7.3-kilometre (4.5-mile) loop through this Brittany resort town.

"The prologue will be particularly tough. It'll be a test for everyone," Indurain said.

But for the Spaniard, it'll be a 23-day, 3,635-kilometre (2,254-mile) test to see whether he can join Belgian Eddy Merckx and Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault as five-time

winners. What sets Indurain apart, is that he can do it in five consecutive years.

"The fifth tour doesn't worry me. I'm just centering on winning this one," Indurain said Friday. And his preparation has been flawless, including victories in two preparatory one-week races that cover portions of this year's tour.

"I'm in excellent form," he said. Considering he has won by ever-bigger margins over the past four years, some might think the result is a foregone conclusion.

However, for the first time in years, opposition looks real tough.

"It'll be a lot harder for Miguel, because there are a lot of guys in great shape," Rominger said.

Including himself. Rominger, currently No. 1 in the world rankings, overwhelmed opposition during the Giro last month and already took Indurain's one-hour time trial world record

last fall. On top of this, he claims to feel no pressure.

"I'm already satisfied with my year. I've won the Giro," the Swiss said. But after finishing second in 1993 and abandoning last year's race after falling ill, the "yellow jersey" going to the tour winner is one of the few things still missing. And at his age, he knows he will not get to many more chances.

The Parisians will be looking for Jalabert in yellow during the concluding laps on the Champs-Élysées when what's left of the 189-strong starting field hits Paris on July 23.

France has not had a champion since Hinault won his

last of five tours in 1985 and Jalabert has given them hope.

Currently third in the world rankings, just below Indurain, he has won one-day classics and climbed on some of the toughest mountains along with the best.

It is a far cry from last year, when he crashed horribly during the opening sprint finish of the tour, losing several teeth and needing reconstructive surgery on his face.

He missed the rest of the year, but it brought him back stronger and better this season.

Other outsiders include Evgeni Berzin, who finished second in the Giro. The Rus-

sian has been peaking towards his best form over the past weeks, as has Italy's star mountain climber Marco Pantani.

American Lance Armstrong is not among the favourites and he has set himself less lofty goals too — finishing is paramount.

His first two tours finished early, with pre-planned desertions halfway through the race.

After winning the Tour Dupont at home, he is reaching cycling maturity at 23.

"I have never done three weeks. I wouldn't mind being close to the top 10 in the final standings," he said.

After Saturday's opening, the next test comes on Tuesday when a 67-kilometre (41.6-mile) team time trial is set.

July 9 could be decisive for many with the first individual time trial over 54 kilometres of hilly terrain in Belgium. Over the past years, Indurain each time opened a big gap, and controlled the race from that point.

Climbers get their chance after that, with five mountain stages in the Alps and Pyrenees.

If things are still not settled by July 22, a final time trial should.

The next day the Tour will be history and Indurain may have his share of it.

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